

THE TIMES

Tomorrow

Count-out
Paul Routledge leads an expert team at the TUC conference - where the votes will decide whether it leans to the left or the right.

Countdown



John Witherow on the implications of Iraqi Exocets pointing at Khomeini's Iran.

Count-up
Full details in Computer Horizons of 12 weekly Classroom Computer contests for young people.

Man...
Fashion Page takes the first of a series of regular looks at fashion for men.

...and superman
A three-part Business News series speaks to people who have built businesses worth millions.

Fighting for artistic life in Moscow

For nearly twenty years, Yuri Lyubimov has struggled to keep his Taganka theatre in Moscow alive in the face of Soviet bureaucracy, which has just closed three of his plays. Now in London with a dramatization of *Crime and Punishment*, he speaks to Bryan Appleyard about his fight for artistic freedom. **Page 13**

Headless corpse

The headless body of a woman aged between 15 and 30 has been discovered hidden in undergrowth at a Devon beauty spot. She had been shot. **Page 3**

Oil chief

Mr Julian West, aged 33, a civil servant, has taken charge of Enterprise Oil, the company launched by the Government to take over British Gas's oil interests. **Page 15**

Child killed

Andrew Cinders, aged two, the son of an Ulster police reservist, died after an accident involving his father's pistol in his home at Newtownstewart, Tyrone, yesterday. **Page 1**

Clued up

Dr John Sykes, a lexicographer, has won the Collins Dictionary/The Times crossword championship for the seventh time with an average score of eight and a half minutes a puzzle. **Page 3**

Boxer dies

Kiko Bejines, a boxer aged 22, who never regained consciousness after being knocked out by Albert Davila in the United States on Thursday night, died yesterday of head injuries. **Page 1**

Aquino crusade

Supporters of Benigno Aquino, the murdered Philippine opposition leader, plan a prolonged civil disobedience campaign against President Marcos, modelled on the non-violent crusade of Mahatma Gandhi. **Page 5**

Aoki's title

Isao Aoki, of Japan, won the European Open golf championship at Sunningdale yesterday, with a total of 274, two strokes ahead of Nick Faldo, of Britain, in joint second place. **Page 17**

Somerset blow

Somerset's chances of adding the John Player League cricket title to their success in the NatWest Trophy were ruled by an unexpected defeat by Worcestershire. **Page 17**

Leader, page 11
Letters: On nuclear debate, from the Bishop of Salisbury; building failures, from Professor A. Kennaway; press freedom, from Mr D. Treford.

Leading articles: Geneva arms talks, immigrants in France and Germany.

Features, pages 8-10
Sir Peter Parker on his achievements - and failures - as BR's chairman of the past seven years; Gerald Kaufman's high-down hopes for superionic aeroplanes; the TUC's chance to defeat a bungling burglar; the robot, an intellectual flop; everybody's pet.

Obituary, page 12
Mr James Laing, Mr Lyndsey Langwill.

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General gives Soviet version of interception

● Moscow came near to admitting a case of mistaken identity over the downed South Korean airliner. It looked like a US spy plane, had no lights and ignored warnings, said a Soviet general.
● President Reagan will announce tonight retaliatory measures the US is planning. They will be "calm, controlled, but absolutely firm" he told Congressmen.
● Diplomats at the UN are dismayed by the Russians' lack of remorse over the disaster which it is assumed cost 269 lives. **Page 7**
● Relatives of the lost passengers threw flowers, belongings and portraits into the sea as close to the presumed crash site as prudence permitted. **Page 7**

Airliner 'was mistaken for American spy plane'

From Richard Owen in Moscow and Nicholas Ashford in Washington

The Soviet Union indicated yesterday that it had mistaken the Korean airliner for an American spy plane with a similar outline. A senior Soviet air force general last night gave the first detailed account of the interception on Thursday of the doomed Korean Boeing 747 by Soviet fighters, but did not say whether they had hit the aircraft.

Colonel-General Semyon Romanov, chief of the main staff of the air defence forces, said in an interview with Soviet journalists that the Korean aircraft was flying without navigation lights and "did not respond at all to actions by our interceptor-fighters".

He said the pilot tried repeatedly over a long period to lead the "intruder" to the nearest Soviet airfield. When the Korean jet failed to respond to radio contact the Soviet pilot changed altitude and rocked its wings. It then flashed its lights at the jumbo crew, "but neither waggling nor flashing brought the necessary result".

General Romanov, whose remarks were reported by Tass, reinforced the theory of mistaken identity by saying that the jumbo was flying at night at a height of 8,000m (26,000ft) to 10,000m and that its outline resembled that of the American RS135 reconnaissance aircraft.

He confirmed that the Soviet fighter had fired warning shots with tracer shells, adding: "This is firing from an interceptor plane parallel to the course of an intruder plane." He said "rules provide for such a measure".

General Romanov said air-traffic controllers in America and Japan had acted "strangely". The jumbo was "stalking under cover of night above our territory", a deliberate action designed as a "rude provocation".

General Romanov said American warplanes, some launched from aircraft carriers, had violated Soviet airspace in the area of the formerly Japanese Kuril islands nine times this year and there had been similar incidents near Ratananov island in the Bering Strait.

The US Air Force and Navy were carrying out directly-sanctioned provocations to sow suspicion and mistrust between Russia and America. General Romanov's remarks were read out on the main television news bulletin. In the same broadcast a television commentator revealed that the Korean aircraft had been carrying



Steve Overt reclaimed his 1,500 metres world record yesterday, putting over a year of illness and injury, and a disappointing world championship performance behind him. Running in Rieti, Italy, he won after starting that his fellow Briton Steve Cram, the world champion, had missed the record in Norway. Overt struck out on his own to win in 3min 30.78sec.

He had held the record for three years until Sydney Maree broke it last Sunday with 3:31.24 in Cologne. Maree finished third yesterday in the Fifth Avenue Mile, a race down a street in Manhattan.

Overt's season has therefore ended on a triumphal note after an indecisive start. He missed practically all of the 1982 season, following a training accident which necessitated minor surgery. He then dropped out of two important races early this season with leg cramps and looked far from world record standard. Full story, page 17

passengers who were "peaceable people".

The jumbo has for the most part been described as an "intruder plane" in official Soviet accounts. The commentator told Russian viewers that the fact that the 747 was carrying passengers made the American action in using it for spying all the more reprehensible.

In the US, President Reagan is to make a nation-wide television broadcast tonight, in which he will set out action the US intends to take.

The President discussed a number of points with Congressional leaders who were briefed at the White House yesterday about the disaster, which cost the lives of 269 people. Mr Reagan told the Congressmen that his response would be "calm, controlled, but absolutely firm".

Despite the strong language used by the President to express his horror at "this murder of innocent civilians", the US response is expected to be restrained and largely limited to an international effort to condemn the attack and take measures to make it safer to fly nearer the Soviet Union.

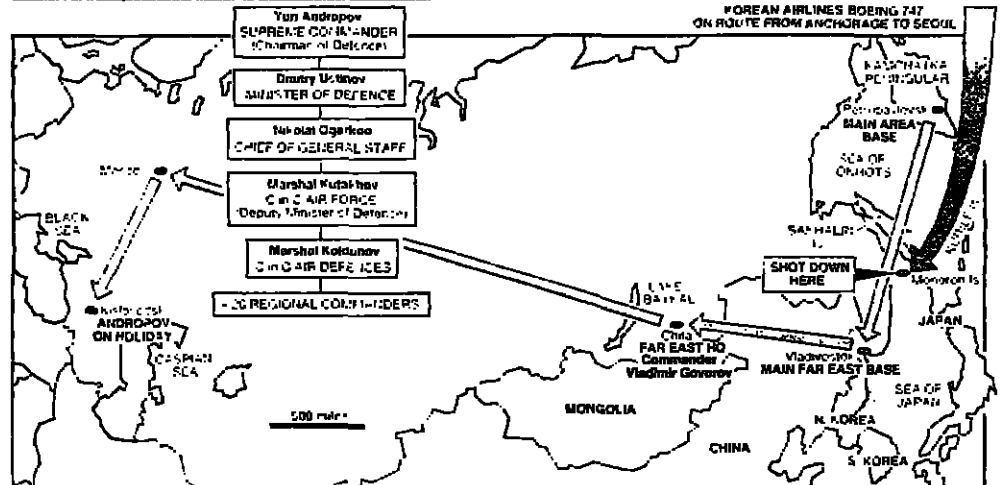
According to US officials the President has dismissed suggestions that he should cancel the new five-year grain agreement signed last month. He has also ruled out any suspension of the two rounds of arms reduction talks with the Soviet Union in Geneva.

According to American sources, the US response would be centred on the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a UN agency based in Montreal, and the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations.

Among other moves the US is expected to make is to support an emergency meeting of this ICAO to consider improved warning measures to prevent aircraft from straying into Soviet airspace.

In the White House it is recognized that the US still has to do business with the Soviet Union no matter how appalled Americans may be at the shooting down of an unarmed airliner and for this reason Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, will go ahead as planned with his meeting with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Madrid on Thursday.

However, the meeting is being shortened and Mr Shultz will use it primarily to express "a feeling of revulsion" over the incident. Continued on back page, col 8



Fingers on the trigger: Marshal Aleksander Koldunov (left), Marshal Pavel Kutakhov and the Soviet Union's military chain of command

Senior military commanders 'took decision to open fire'

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The decision to attack the South Korean jumbo jet was almost certainly taken locally under existing Soviet rules of engagement, according to informed sources.

With speculation surrounding the role of President Andropov in the Korean Air Lines tragedy, there is growing support in Moscow for the view that the decision to act against the aircraft was taken at a lower level and was regarded as a military matter.

Western defence experts and some Soviet sources believe that the interception and "neutralization" of a threat to Soviet security in a key military area would be the responsibility of regional commanders under standing orders.

Some sources assert that senior armed forces commanders, suspicious of Mr Andropov's attempts to mend fences with the West, may have used the incident to impede the revival of détente, but this is widely discounted.

Mr Andropov was on holiday in the Caucasus spa of Kislovodsk at the time of the attack, according to informed sources. He hurried back to Moscow for the regular Thursday Politburo meeting, much of which was reportedly devoted to the affair. The Politburo convened on Friday as well.

The apparent failure to refer the crucial decision to Mr Andropov was not, however, due to his absence from the capital. The Soviet leader is never incommunicado, and the nerve-centre of Kremlin communications equipment goes with him.

Sources said that when the Korean jumbo jet entered Soviet air space and flew for more than two hours above the Kamchatka peninsula and Sakhalin island, in the Sea of Okhotsk, the decision on how to deal with what would have appeared as an intrusion, deliberate or otherwise - was initially taken by the commander of air defences in the Sakhalin-Kamchatka region.

Radar defences and MIG bases are located on Kamchatka, which contains the base of Petropavlovsk, on Sakhalin (which has five military airfields) and in the formerly Japanese Kuril Islands, were advanced swing-wing MIG 23s were recently delivered.

Sources said the crisis was referred during the two-and-a-half hours of the Korean jet's overflight to the headquarters of the Far Eastern regional command, in Chita, headed by General Vladimir Gorovov.

General Gorovov, aged 61, son of the celebrated Second World War commander General Leonid Gorovov, was made regional commander of Baltic forces in 1971, and was moved to the Far East after a stint in Moscow.

Sources said General Gorovov would have taken responsibility as regional commander but would have reported the incident to Air Marshal Aleksander Koldunov, commander of the Soviet air defences.

The destruction of the jet would ultimately be sanctioned by Marshal Pavel Kutakhov, aged 69, commander-in-chief of the Air Force and Deputy Minister of Defence.

Marshal Kutakhov would probably have been informed, rather than consulted, however, since under Soviet rules of engagement local commanders are empowered to shoot first and ask questions later if national security is endangered.

Sources said the senior officers involved were almost certainly aware of the political consequences of their action but had acted under strict military procedures.

Fighting erupts in Chouf as Israel pulls out

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

The 230 square miles of Chouf Mountains south-east of Beirut were engulfed by civil warfare last night after the Israeli Army staged its long-awaited withdrawal in just 12 hours, handing over their positions to rival Christian and Druze militias and allowing both sides to keep their weapons.

The Lebanese Army failed to honour President Amin Gemayel's promise that they would advance into the mountains to take control and by late afternoon, hundreds of shells and rockets were exploding across the mountain villages and around the suburbs of southern and eastern Beirut.

Lebanese troops sent a column of 28 armoured vehicles under a barrage of fire to recapture the strategic Khalde road junction next to Beirut airport, which had been taken over by Druze gunmen just an hour after the Israelis left the southernmost tip of the city. But by early evening Druze mortar and rocket fire was falling on Christian sectors of the capital and around the terminal of the international airport.

American marines stationed beside the airport fired back with automatic rifles as they too came under small arms and mortar fire. Israeli jets made three strafing attacks on two Syrian tanks that apparently tried to support a Druze offensive against Bhamdoun, the half-ruined resort town on the Northern end of the Chouf where Phalangist militiamen are now surrounded.

In other parts of the mountains, encircled Christian and Druze villages fought on alone without hope of assistance, either from the departing Israelis or from the Lebanese Army. A great swathe of black smoke lay over the mountains all day as shellfire set light to houses and forests.

This was just the kind of anarchy that the Lebanese and the American governments - not to mention France, Italy and Britain, the other contributors to the multinational peacekeeping force - had most feared.

The Israelis had on Saturday refused an American request to delay their withdrawal to the Awali River for a third time after the Lebanese Government had still not decided itself to send its army into the Chouf.

Just who is to blame for the savagery that has now broken out - the Israelis for their abrupt departure or the Lebanese for their inability to reach agreement with the warning militias - is likely to be debated for many months but both Israel and Lebanon were yesterday disclaiming responsibility.

Lebanese Government officials, who had earlier - and with good reason - accused the Syrians of arming and encouraging the Druze - claimed that they had been given no warning of the Israeli pull-back, that there had been no coordination between the two armies and that Israel had no right to permit the militias to keep their weapons after the Israeli Army left.

Pro-Government newspapers in Beirut spoke darkly of betrayal, suggesting that Israel had no intention of seeing Lebanese sovereignty in the Chouf.

For their part, the Israelis insisted that they had twice postponed their withdrawal to give the Lebanese Government time to effect a reconciliation between Mr Gemayel and the Druze and to send their army into the Chouf to take over Israeli positions.

"It is very sad," an Israeli major said as the last columns of tanks and lorries left southern Beirut. "We wanted to hand over to the Lebanese Army but they didn't turn up. So this is no longer our responsibility. What happens here is their problem."

The state radio in Beirut reported that Mr Gemayel's Cabinet regarded the Israeli sudden and partial pull-back as a violation of the Lebanese-Israeli military withdrawal agreement of May 17.

It said that Mr Chafic Wazzan, the Lebanese Prime Minister, had told the Arab League secretary-general that the accord - which was arranged by the United States - was "as good as frozen".

In fact, the Lebanese had been well aware that the Israelis were

Continued on back page, col 1

Syria warned against ambitions in Lebanon

Washington (AP) - Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister, said yesterday that any attempt by Syria to move into the Lebanese zones being evacuated by Israeli forces would be a tragedy for Lebanon.

"It is clear we do not want the Syrians to move in the area that we leave," Mr Arens said in an interview from Jerusalem with ABC television.

"If terrorists reenter the area that we left it would be a tragedy, first of all for Lebanon I would be very surprised if they tried. If that would happen, we will do whatever is necessary to protect our border..." he said.

He did not elaborate, saying: "We are not going to telegraph in advance what we will do."

Mr Arens said the Israeli redeployment constituted a test for the Lebanese Government to prevent what was termed a possible bloodbath in the Chouf mountains after completion of the Israeli withdrawal.

● DAMASCUS: Syria said it would not allow Lebanon to become Israel's "prey" and accused President Gemayel of fuelling a new civil war in the country with Israeli and American backing (Reuters reports).

As fighting erupted in Beirut in the wake of Israel's partial withdrawal to the south, state-run Damascus radio reaffirmed that Syria would withdraw its forces from Lebanon only after an unconditional Israeli pull-out.

Syria, it said, would never allow Lebanon to become a prey of Israel and its expansionist aims.

Fears grow for French fishing boat

By a Staff Reporter

The severe gales of the weekend do not necessarily mean that the summer is over.

But the London Weather Centre said yesterday that there would be no return of the heatwave and said the next few days will continue windy.

There is serious concern for the safety of the five or six-man crew on board the French fishing vessel *Renie Berceux* which has been missing since Friday despite an intensive air search. The last known position of the boat, from Concarneau in Brittany, was 250 miles north-west of Land's End.

The gales have blown rare sea birds to Britain, including one whose nearest colony is on the Falklands - a seven-inches-long Wilson's Petrel, an Antarctic species of which only about ten have been recorded previously. More than 80 Sabine's gulls from the Arctic, have also been swept onto land.

In Snowdonia the A5 London-Holyhead road was reopened last night after being blocked for 38 hours by a landslide, and in Milford Haven experts were examining the damage caused when an ocean-going tug was flung by mountainous seas onto the BP jetty at its Angle Bay terminal.

Fruit farmers in the South-East have been badly hit and some apple growers have lost a third of their crop. **Business News, page 15**

Murray asks Labour rivals to stay away from TUC

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Blackpool

Union leaders yesterday cold shouldered the Labour Party's "political circus" due to descend on Blackpool today as the Trades Union Congress opens.

Most of the nine candidates for leader and deputy leader had decided to ignore an appeal from the TUC not to distract public attention by "fringe" politicking, but some were last night giving fuller weight to fresh requests to stay away.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, yesterday renewed his attempt to distance the unions from the leadership struggle in an unusually strong public condemnation of the contenders. "I am asking them to stay away. I think it is an abuse of congress to use it as a political forum. It distracts the attention of the trade union movement and the nation from the really important matters to be dealt with."

Britain's economy may grow by as little as 1 per cent next year, putting it near the bottom of the world recovery, according to forecasts today from leading stockbroking firms.

Such a faltering recovery could rule out tax cuts next year and force the Government to reconsider its medium term financial strategy, the cornerstone of its policy.

The forecasts, from eight stockbroking firms, agree that the low growth could lead to a new

City experts fear new recession

By Our Financial Staff

recession. Most forecast that the economy will expand by no more than 1 to 1.5 per cent compared with an expected 2.5 per cent this year. Only one firm, Grieson Grant, forecasts a higher growth rate of 3 per cent.

There is broad agreement that consumer spending, the mainstay of the recovery so far, will run of steam as borrowing rises and savings are depleted.

Industry has passed the peak of its restocking cycle, and there is pessimism about exports and the ability of British industry to compete with imports.

If economic growth does slow next year, the Government may have to choose between maintaining tight control over spending, thereby restricting demand and risking a new recession by the end of 1984, and relaxing some of the constraints imposed by the medium-term financial strategy.

Inflation is thought likely to average more than 6 per cent next year against about 5 per cent this year. **Business News, page 15**

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Murray confident unions will survive 500,000 fall in membership

From Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Blackpool

A vigorous reaffirmation of the role of the unions was launched yesterday by Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, as he reported a record loss of membership. There were no grounds for writing the labour movement's obituary, he insisted.

Speaking at a press conference on the eve of the annual Trades Union Congress, in Blackpool, he disclosed a fall of 500,000 up to the end of 1982 in the membership of TUC-affiliated unions, but he argued that the unions would survive the present "hostile political environment".

Clearly anxious to dispel the growing view that the TUC is set for a permanent decline in its power and influence, Mr Murray claimed that the unions would emerge from the present challenges stronger than ever.

The TUC conference, which opens this morning, will be the occasion for a sharp conflict over the labour movement's direction and strategy. Divisions on these issues were re-emphasized yesterday when delegates from the Transport and General Workers' Union voted to oppose talks with Mr Norman Tebbit, the Secretary of State for Employment, on his proposals to legislate on internal union democracy.

But Mr Murray was at pains to put the most favourable gloss on

the Unions' position. "For four long years our people and our economy have been bruised and battered. Far from protecting us from the ravages of the world recession, the Government's policies have only made things worse."

"The unions have not emerged from this period unscathed. Our membership has dropped, principally because of the uncontrolled growth of mass unemployment."

In fact, union membership is set to drop by about 500,000 again this year, taking TUC membership below ten million.

There were further threats to membership in the changing structure of industries and in the Government's deliberate strategy of privatization, encouraging non-unionism and the undercutting of pay levels, Mr Murray said. "We have met these challenges before, and emerged stronger than ever, and I am confident we will do so again."

"The political environment is as hostile as ever, but what is new is that we are used to changes in government. In 115 years since we set up shop we have had 20 years of Labour government. We managed in the other 95 and we will manage in the next five."

"We are very conscious of the rejection of the Conservative Government and we must cer-

tainly take account of that. But that election and its hostility to us provide no grounds for an obituary notice on British trade unionism."

The conference starts with what is likely to be a closely fought battle over the reform of the TUC general council. Left-wing unions want to scrap a five-year experiment that gives large unions automatic seats on the labour movement's ruling body, but the moderates are expected to fight off the challenge.

The new system under which a new general council will be chosen tomorrow, will mean that the militants are reduced to about 15 members on a reconstituted, 51-strong body that will reflect the present disposition of membership rather than the historic manual roots of the TUC.

The transport workers will also seek to retain two of their autonomous sections covering agricultural and textile workers as separate affiliates to the TUC, but a motion to exclude them from individual membership is likely to succeed, prompting yet another constitutional crisis. If the land workers and dyers and bleachers are compelled to join the delegation of their parent union, the voting cards will be withdrawn and composite motions in which they are participating will have to be rewritten.

Safeguards sought in youth training

From David Felton, Labour Correspondent, Blackpool

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, has been told that without careful monitoring, the £1,000m Youth Training Scheme could lead to youngsters being under trained, inadequately educated and in dangerous jobs.

The criticism from Youthaid, a charity for young people, came before the TUC congress in Blackpool where the unions' deep reservations about the scheme will be voiced.

Mr Paul Lewis, youth director of Youthaid, who takes up his post today, called last night for a three-point programme of safeguards to be built into the scheme to make it becoming a source of cheap labour.

He said there ought to be a regular inspection of every scheme by officials of the Manpower Services Commission, which operates the scheme, monitoring of health and safety provisions by factory inspectors and more funds for colleges to provide adequate education.

In his letter to Mr Tebbit Mr

Irish unity for trade tour of US

Senior representatives of Northern Ireland's four main political parties, including two party leaders, are to make a joint industrial promotion tour of North America, beginning next week.

The touring party will concentrate on financial institutions and major companies in cities throughout the midwest and the eastern seaboard. A one-day visit to Toronto has also been included.

The four party representatives on the tour are the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist party; the Social Democratic and Labour Party leader Mr John Hume; the chief whip of the Alliance Party, Mr John Cusna-ham; and Stormont Assemblyman Mr Raymond Ferguson, representing the Official Unionists.

All have promised to refrain from party propaganda and political point-scoring during the tour, and to speak with one voice on Northern Ireland's need for more inward industrial investment.

Meanwhile, the Republican Irish National Caucus in Washington DC, headed by the Fernmanagh-born priest Father Sean McManus, is trying to persuade the United States State Department to revoke Mr Paisley's visa and ban him from the USA on the grounds of his support for violence in the shape of the so-called "loyalist" third force vigilante group which he formed two years ago.

Mr Jones said that pensioners and the disabled are suffering a worsening of their standard of living. "They are to be victims of a deliberate fraud this November when pension increases will be about £1.50 a week less than the repeated promises of the Prime Minister and the Government, that our pensions would be maintained in line with the movement of prices," he said.

Mr Len Murray, the TUC General Secretary, said that the money which the Prime Minister sought to "save" did not belong to her. It belongs to the British people and there was no evidence that the British people wanted to treat pensioners badly.

The Rev Ian Paisley: Visa issued

Pensioners will turn and fight, Thatcher warned

By David Young

Mr Jack Jones, former general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, yesterday warned the Government that pensioners are becoming "increasingly concerned about the level of their state benefits."

Mr Jones, who is chairman of several pensioners' pressure groups, said at a TUC rally in Blackpool: "I warn the Government do not drive us down. Even the meek and mild in the community can turn. Pensioners who are prepared to be active in their own cause can do a great deal to bring home their case to the public."

"Acting together, we could stop the traffic in many important areas, both on motorways and in our big cities. We would prefer to avoid direct action of that sort, and win our case by reasoned arguments, but if the Government and members of Parliament will

not listen some action may have to be taken. I believe that if we had to take action we would enjoy the sympathy of the public and, indeed, the police."

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Keyed up: Two girls on a one-week course at the Kentish Town computer camp. (Photograph: John Voos)

Computers bridge class divide

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

A national network of 500 community computer camps within two years is the ambition of Inter-Action, which has helped to establish 16 of them around the country in the past year.

The camps are run from local community centres or schools by neighbourhood volunteers, grants from local authorities and equipment from computer manufacturers. The US microcomputer manufacturer, Atari, has given £100,000 worth of equipment and programs to the project this summer.

Groups which wish to set up their camp can qualify for an Urban Aid grant funded jointly by the local authority and the Department of the Environment. The trust has set up a group to give free advice to groups wanting to create their own camp. All are run independently but Inter-Action is keen on forming a national federation of community computer camps.

Mr Ed Berman, founder of the Community Computer Camps Advisory Service and the computer camp blueprint which was established last year in Kentish Town, London, is concerned that knowledge of microcomputers could become a social divide with middle-class children having the advantage.

He says: "There has been an appalling underuse of community education facilities in Britain especially during holiday periods. Not only can these computer camps use these facilities, but they have also demonstrated the existence of an enormous untapped resource of talent dormant in youngsters, irrespective of their academic attainments."

The camps around the country are catering for those aged between nine and 18. The camps running in London are at Kentish Town, (two), Westminster, Haringey, Tower Hamlets, Edmonton, Docklands, Lambeth,

British tanks 'flop' in Nato contest

Serious doubts have been raised about the effectiveness of Britain's tank force, and whether the vehicles have "any hope of surviving for long in a battle" with the Soviet T72 tank.

The public debut of the new fire control system for the Army's Chief of Staff and Challenger tanks in a Nato gunnery contest in June "proved a dismal flop", according to Rupert Penningly, editor of the journal *Defence Attaché*.

His publication, due to appear on Wednesday, says one "very senior observer", believed to be a high-ranking general, described the British performance in the biennial competition on Hohnle ranges, West Germany, on June 20-24 as a disaster.

Out of a field of 10, the American teams, equipped with the new M1 Abrams tank and the older M60, finished first, second and eighth.

Unlike any other team, except the Americans, the British team was composed of professional soldiers and could come no higher than ninth, the magazine says, adding: "For the first time the Chief of Staff's tank had the benefit of the new computerized fire control system."

"Good scores in training had not been repeated in the competition."

Lawson seeks public debate on spending

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been converted to the view that the Treasury must lead a more open debate on the prospects for public spending and taxation in the late 1980s.

The Prime Minister could kill the proposal. But if Mrs Margaret Thatcher gives it her blessing, future spending choices and methods of financing them could become a feature of ministerial speeches when the political season reopens at the end of the month.

The Cabinet considered in July the early results of a secret review by the Treasury's general expenditure division led by Mr Peter Mountfield, an under secretary under the supervision of Mr Alan Bailey, Second Permanent Secretary in charge of its public services sector.

Their work is still guarded by security precautions unusually tight even by Whitehall standards. For example, officials have been expressly forbidden to talk to *The Times*. That will not change unless the Prime Minister approves Mr Lawson's plan.

His original idea was to encourage private "think tanks" such as the Institute of Economic Affairs, the Policy Studies Institute and the National Institute for Economic and Social Research to act as the Treasury's surrogates in kindling public debate. The Treasury's ministerial team has now accepted, however, that such a strategy would be inadequate.

That believe the Treasury, which possesses a near monopoly of financial information, must take the lead. Quite how has yet



Mr Lawson: Proposal could be killed

Micro guide to picking winners

By Our Electronics Correspondent

One winning race horse in every three are claimed to be easily predicted using tables generated by a small Cambridge company from its microcomputer, based on the form of trainers and jockeys, rather than horses.

The claims are made by Compas, which will launch its first set of tables at the Doncaster St Leger meeting on Wednesday.

Mr Michael Frost, director of the company, claims: "You cannot get the figures we are producing anywhere else. We are not tipsters, we are statisticians. We give you facts and figures to back winners."

The tables, which are computed from data taken from *The Sporting Life* over the past five years, show the trainer's name and his winner-to-runner ratio over the past five years expressed as a percentage. A similar percentage figure for this year is calculated, as is the return on a £1 level stake.

According to Compas: "We are trying to get people to look at racing from a different point of view. The method has been consistent at every track this year. It takes the guesswork out of finding a winner."

The tables are called *Whipps Analysis* and also outline the performance of the jockeys and the favourites. The Cambridge company's intention is to issue up-to-date tables for every meeting and an annual book to be published around November.

The punter can cross reference between the form of a trainer and his stable jockey at that meeting.

Whipps Analysis will be available at the Doncaster St Leger (September 7-10), Ascot (Sept 22-24), and Newmarket (September 28-October 1), £1.50, at the course or from Whopps Analysis, 28 Angiers Way, Cambridge.

More court help in appeal cases

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The courts are to be given more scope for fighting miscarriages of justice, but critics say the changes do not go far enough.

The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, has written to Justice, the British section of the International Commission of Jurists, saying the Court of Appeal Criminal Division "intends to exercise its discretion under Section 23 (1) of the Criminal Appeal Act in favour of the appellant more readily than it has in the past."

The change follows articles in *The Times* and a BBC series on "rough justice". Section 23 gives wide powers to enable fresh evidence to be considered.

Lord Lane's letter throws more light on the Court's intentions on a highly controversial issue which calls into question the appeal system. Lord Lane adds to a Home Office reply to calls for reform made by the Home Affairs Select Committee of MPs after the disclosures in *The Times* and BBC programme.

The MPs wanted to go further and have established an independent review body charged with advising the Home Secretary on his exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, has written to Justice saying he finds it hard to say more in general terms than "that we shall in future be prepared to exercise the power of reference to the Court of Appeal more readily, simply because the great diversity of cases and their circumstances make it difficult to draw up general criteria."

Mr Brittan adds: "In principle, however, I see the power of reference as providing all alterna-



Lord Lane: Wider scope for court

tive to the Select Committee's recommendation for an advisory body which provides a better means of enabling cases to be dealt with under an open and impartial procedure."

The changes do not satisfy the highly respected *Criminal Law Review* whose editor, Dr Andrew Ashworth, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, now adds his voice to calls for reform.

Writing in the September issue, he says that the changes proposed by the Home Secretary will not remedy "fundamental defects in the English system of criminal appeals."

The extent to which the Court of Appeal would take on more of such cases remained to be seen. "The court is, by all accounts already overburdened by the volume of appeals against conviction and appeals against sentence," Dr Ashworth writes.

Part of the answer may be given when the Court of Appeal hears a case referred to it by the Home Secretary of a life-sentence prisoner whose cause was taken up in *The Times* and BBC programme. Myrvyn Jock Russell, who was an unemployed squatter in Deptford, south London, claims that he is innocent of the murder of Jane Bigwood, for which he was convicted in October 1977.

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مركزا من الامم

Schools criticized for 'poor advice' on university courses

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Schools give poor advice to sixth formers about university courses and careers, according to an annual guide to winning a place in higher education, published today.

The guide by Mr Brian Heap, head of careers guidance at Hutton grammar school, Preston, also criticizes university admissions tutors whom, he says, should cut down on the number of offers they make to candidates. As it is, some university departments will offer places to 150 sixth formers when they have only 80. "They then have to find reasons for rejecting people", he said.

Mr Heap laments the fact that A level grades have become so important to admissions tutors, particularly because students are accepted for a university place initially on the basis of O level results and references from the school. Today's sixth formers are a forgotten generation, he says.

Industry is also criticized for not giving enough sponsorship to students. Only 100 firms are prepared to sponsor students next year, despite a student intake figure of 77,000, a statistic which Mr Heap regards as "absolutely pathetic".

Headteachers are mainly to blame for the poor advice given to sixth formers because they do not appoint careers teachers, he says. Advice given to students about engineering courses and careers is lamentable and teachers still think that engineering is a subject for "thickies", according to Mr Heap.

In his fourteenth guide to

degree course offers, Mr Heap has estimated that students this year have to do one grade better at A level compared with last year to get a place on 30 per cent of courses in universities.

The A level grades required were rising most quickly in actuarial science, fine art, town and country planning, mathematics, American studies, chemistry, music, electrical and electronic engineering, physics, biological science, accountancy, production engineering, computer studies, business studies and politics.

Move to reintroduce grammar places

This year Mr Heap has not produced a league of universities demanding the highest grades to give an indication of which are the most popular. But the choicest universities are Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Durham, Warwick, St Andrew's, Nottingham, Southampton, Bath, University College, London, and York, he says.

Exeter is omitted because it refuses to cooperate with Mr Heap's research. Slightly lower grades are demanded by Dundee, Heriot-Watt, Bangor, Belfast, Keele, Essex, Aberdeen and Loughborough.

Degree Course Offers 1983-84, published by Careers Consultants, 12-14 Hill Rise, Richmond Hill, Richmond Surrey TW9 1JH, costs £5.50 plus 98p postage and packing.

Solihull, a solid Conservative-controlled authority in the West Midlands, may be the first council to turn comprehensive back into

grammar schools if a proposal to be announced this week is approved.

Unofficial talks have already taken place between Solihull councillors and Mr Stuart Sexton, political adviser to Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education. No minister has yet been involved but it is possible that Sir Keith would consent to such a change in some Solihull Schools.

Mr Bob Meacham, leader of the council, emphasized yesterday that no decision had yet been taken by the council of any of its committees. But Mr Michael Ellis, chairman of the education committee, will tell tomorrow's full council meeting that the proposal is to be actively examined.

"I am unequivocally in favour of the restoration of grammar schools", Mr Meacham said. "I expect a great political rumour from my colleagues here. But I think the fairly solidly Conservative-thinking people of Solihull will welcome this. We want to see what people think."

The idea to restore two or three grammar schools in Solihull is being considered for administrative as well as political reasons.

The council has problems with its catchment areas for schools because some institutions are particularly popular with parents and there is deep resentment that their children are excluded from them because of where they live.

It is possible that a decision on a return to selection of pupils for grammar schools could be made on October 11, the day of the next full council meeting.



Thinking hard: Some of the contestants in the Collins Dictionaries/The Times crossword championship (left) and the winner, Dr John Sykes (right). (Photograph: Suresh Karadia)

Seven down for Dr Sykes

By Alan Hamilton

Galligaskins and griskins hold no terror for Dr John Sykes, who yesterday devoured four puzzles at an average speed of eight and a half minutes each to emerge as winner of the Collins Dictionaries-The Times crossword championship for the seventh time.

Dr Sykes, aged 54, head of the German dictionaries department at the Oxford University Press, has won the title on all but two of the nine occasions on which he has entered. A career in lexicography, he revealed yesterday, was of little or no help in solving The Times crossword.

Of the 20 finalists who emerged from an original entry of some 1,800 competitors, 12

returned correct solutions to all four of yesterday's championship puzzles at the Park Lane Hotel in London.

Dr Sykes barely faltered throughout the afternoon, except for wasting a precious minute convinced that the answer to one particular clue was "algorithm", which it was not. Nevertheless, he finished four clear minutes ahead of his nearest rival, the defending champion Mr Tony Sever.

Dr Sykes trains on The Times daily crossword, which he solves up and solves in batches. He did not find any of yesterday's puzzles more difficult than usual, although in previous years the

compilers have occasionally been known to slip in a real stinker.

His 86 bonus points for completing the puzzles at lightning speed were gathered almost without effort, to the chagrin of Mr Sever, who wasted a vital minute unable to divine the answer "falsotto".

Dr Sykes won the Collins Trophy, a crystal sculpture by Alison Kinnaird, and a £500 Harrods gift voucher. Other prizewinners were: Mr Tony Sever (79 bonus points); 3: Mr William Pilkington (77); 4: Mr Roger Hartill (69½); 5: Rev Colin Miron (64); 6: Mr Wilfred Hobbs (63); 7: Mr Gordon Hobbs (63); 8: Mr Alan Myers (62½).

0.0018p in the pound for £148m creditors

The first pay-out will be made soon to creditors of Mr William Stern, the property tycoon who became the world's biggest bankrupt with debts of £148m. But they will receive only 0.0018p in the pound.

"In a normal bankruptcy, the cost of distributing such a small dividend could be more than the dividend, but in this case the figures are enormous. A creditor owed £1m will receive a dividend of £1,800", Mr George Auger, the trustee in the bankruptcy, said. Part of the money will come from Mr Stern's family, who helped him when he obtained his discharge from bankruptcy earlier this year.

Coach fares cut in rail-road price war

By Michael Baily
Transport Editor

Inter-city coach fares, already less than half the rail fare on many routes, are to be halved this month. There will also be special cheap day returns of between a third and a quarter of the standard rail fare for pensioners.

The new fares are being introduced from September 20 by National Express, the inter-city wing of the state-owned National Bus Company in an effort to boost midweek travel.

Passengers travelling on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday will be able to buy return tickets for the price of a single, returning either the same week or later. There will be extra benefits for young and old, and special cheap day returns will be available to pensioners without any evidence of identification or special travel card as is required on British Rail.

Typical of the new fares will be a £6.50 return Liverpool to London and £4.25 day return for pensioners and students. This compares with £15 for a return by coach before the road-rail fare war sparked off by the 1980 Transport Act. British Rail's cheap "favour" return costs £13.50.

The Transport Act allowed coach operators to start services wherever they liked at whatever fares they chose without any right on the part of established operators, including British Rail, to object to the Traffic Commissioners. Since then, coach fares have fallen by as much as three-quarters, and inter-city coach travel doubled to 16 million passengers a year between 1980 and 1982.

British Rail, whose costs are substantially higher than those of the coaches, responded with a series of cheap "favour" fares and massive expansion in half-price railcards for pensioners, students and families.

These are popular and have successfully maintained the volume of rail travel, but some British Rail managers fear that much of the traffic generated is being carried at a loss.

Headless body of woman found

By Craig Seton

A search of missing persons files throughout Britain was launched on Saturday after the headless body of a young woman was found hidden in undergrowth at a Devon beauty spot. The police said that the slightly built woman, aged between 15 and 30, had been shot and that her killer might then have cut off her head to try to prevent identification. It was not known whether she had been killed there. The weapon used was not a shotgun.

The body, dressed in tee-shirt and shorts, was discovered by a motorist on a side road close to the main A38 between Exeter and Plymouth. It was concealed beneath dense gorse and bracken behind a locked gate on the edge of a Forestry Commission plantation between Telegraph and Hildn hills, about four miles from Exeter.

The area is used by walkers and horse riders. Devon police appealed to anyone who had been

in the area in the past two weeks who saw anything suspicious to come forward.

Det Chief Supt John Bissett, head of Devon and Cornwall CID, said that the corpse had been for between three and sixteen days. Apart from the t-shirt, made in Morocco and the pink shorts, made in Thailand, no other clothing had been found.

The woman was said to have been about 5ft 10in tall. The police believe that she might have had brown or auburn hair.

Sixty police officers made a detailed search of the area.

● The motive for the killing of Miss Joyce Wilkins, aged 44, on Friday night at her ninth-floor flat in Wednesbury, West Midlands, remained unknown yesterday (the Press Association reports). Miss Wilkins was stabbed as she ran a bath after celebrating her birthday.

The killer broke down her front door.

A second chance for drivers

A scheme which gives some motorist offenders a second chance is being introduced throughout the Lancashire police area today (Ronald Faux writes).

Since trials started last November, the scheme has saved many hours of court time and ensured that defective vehicles are properly repaired.

When a motorist is stopped and some mechanical or structural fault is found, the officer has the option of handing the driver a chit. If this is returned to the police within a fortnight, stamped by a garage that the repair has been done, no further action is taken against the motorist.

So far, 3,500 chits have been issued, and Lancashire police have found it an effective way of ensuring defective vehicles are made safe with minimum police time being spent on the case.

Nottingham and Kent police operate similar schemes and other authorities throughout Britain are said to be watching the results with interest.

Diana Dors has cancer surgery

Miss Diana Dors, the actress, is recovering after undergoing a cancer operation in a private hospital at Windsor on Saturday. Speaking on TV-am yesterday, she said: "Thanks be to God, I am clear".

Doctors discovered she had cancer a year ago when she had an operation to remove an ovarian cyst. She has been having treatment since then, but a scan a few days ago showed there was still a trace. "They took that bit away and they found nothing else", she said.

Exam failures inquiry call

The headmaster of a Church of England sponsored school has asked for an inquiry into the poor results achieved by pupils taking O level religious examinations.

Of the 90 candidates at the Bishop Stopford School in Kettering, Northamptonshire, only 17 passed the examination. Now the headmaster Dr Trevor Hopkins has asked the examination board for a detailed explanation.

Blind woman rebuilds car

Mrs Sharon Briden, aged 34, who lost her sight 11 years ago, is rebuilding a 1931 Austin Seven car at her home in Stoneleigh Close, East Grinstead, West Sussex. She has already stripped down and painted part of the engine and put it together again on the chassis.

The car had been stored in a barn at Cophorne near by since being bought by her father for £5 18 years ago. Mrs Briden expects the task to take another nine or ten months.

School destroyed

Arsonists destroyed a Berkshire primary school yesterday, just days before its 350 pupils were due to start a new term. Mr Clive Waterman, deputy headmaster at South Lake School, Woodley, Reading, said: "We just stood there and watched it. It was heartbreaking."

Forest clearing

Army bomb disposal experts have been called in to clear ammunition dumped by American forces in the 4,500-acre Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, Wiltshire, during the Second World War.

Boy crushed

Gary Dicken, aged 14, of Riverside Close, Farnborough, Hampshire, was crushed to death by a falling concrete pipe on a building site on Saturday.

Outcry over rapist's sentence

Women's movement activists in Northern Ireland called yesterday for the dismissal of a Crown Court judge after he passed what they regard as an excessively lenient sentence in a particularly sordid rape trial.

Their protest was made as social workers said there had been a growth in sexual assaults on children in the province with only an estimated 20 per cent of cases being reported to the police.

Judge Andrew Donaldson, of co. Tyrone, is one of the most junior county court judges in Northern Ireland. Last Thursday he sentenced a Cooke's town man, aged 44, to five years in prison on two charges of rape and incest. The court heard that the man twice raped his daughter, aged 16, on the second occasion after lashing her hands together. The girl became pregnant and was given an abortion.

Sentencing the man, Judge Donaldson said it was one of the worst sexual crimes he had ever come across. On Ulster's scale of 50 per cent maximum remission, he will be freed after two-and-a-half years if he behaves himself in jail.

Malaria alert at Gatwick

By David Walker

Environmental health officials in West Sussex are trying to track down the causes of malaria recently contracted by a Horsham woman and a publican who has not been out of Britain for years.

Part health officials from Gatwick airport, officers of Crawley council and hospital doctors are jointly investigating the theory that female mosquitoes may have been inadvertently imported from the tropics. They might have been carried into Mr Paul Bradon's public house in the hair or clothes of airline personnel.

Fears that tropical mosquitoes might have been bred in the Crawley area were heightened when Mrs Joan Potter, of Horsham, was also found to have malaria. Mrs Potter's husband is a maintenance worker at Gatwick.

The Department of Health said at the weekend that the type of mosquito apparently responsible might have thrived in the recent hot weather but stood no chance of surviving the present cold spell.

125 arrested in weekend of football violence

Brighton police were last night questioning two youths about the petrol bombs, and another youth was detained when a shot was fired from a starting pistol during fighting between rival supporters.

Three men are expected to appear in court today in connection with an attack on a middle-aged man who was hit with a dunham lid near the Royal Pavilion.

A Chelsea supporter after an accident on the way home from the match was critically ill in hospital yesterday with head injuries. Mr Garry Jervis, aged 25, from Teddington, West London, was thought to be dead after he leaped out of a train window and was hit by a passing train. Last night he was in an intensive care unit at the Atkinson Morley's Hospital, Wimbledon.

Mr Malcolm Allison, the Middlesbrough manager, criticized police for their handling of the crowd, after supporters ran riot on the pitch and through the streets.

"Hundreds of people climbed

on to the pitch and no one said a word about it," Mr Allison said. "If there were scenes like that anywhere else, there would be police cars everywhere."

Some of the 125 soccer supporters arrested during a weekend of violence involving Chelsea supporters at Brighton are expected to appear in court today.

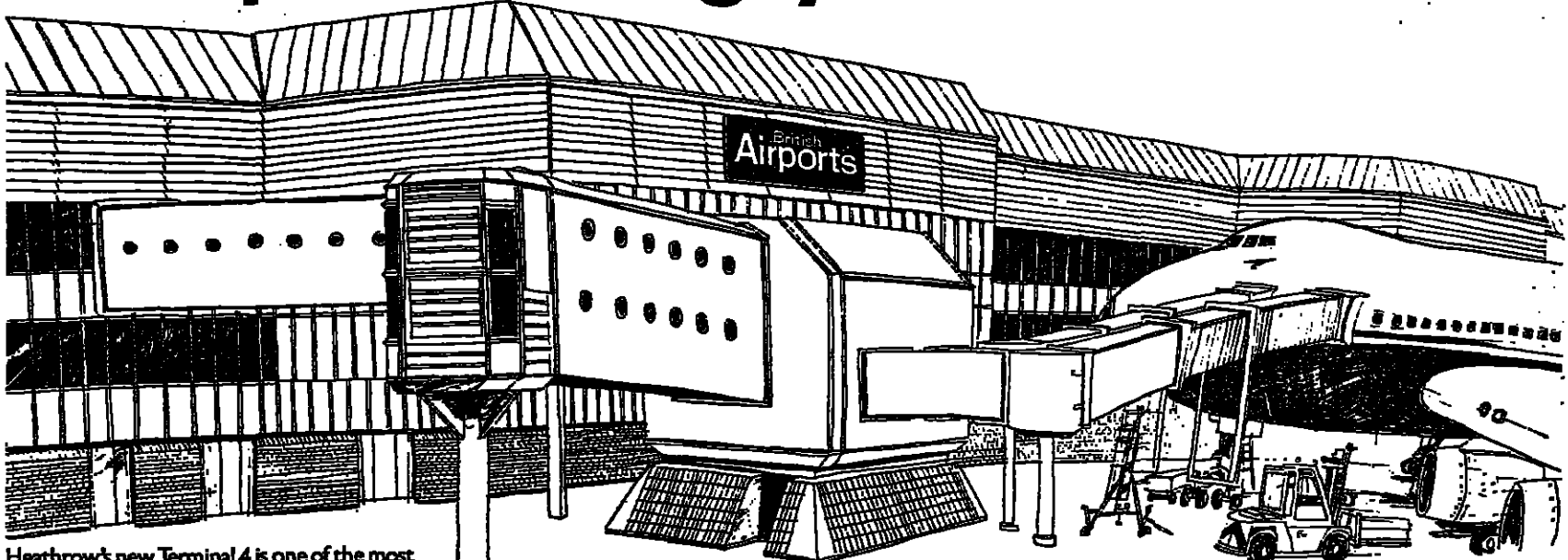
The clashes injured five policemen, two seriously, and led to the discovery of petrol bombs in an alleyway near Brighton town centre.

Police said that two of the bombs were thrown in the streets during the disturbances which led to more than 40 people being treated in hospital.

The Football Association is to investigate that violence and disturbances at Middlesbrough in which Leeds United fans ran wild through the town.

Mr Ted Croker, the FA secretary, said that the inquiry would check whether there was any negligence on the part of the clubs in controlling crowds.

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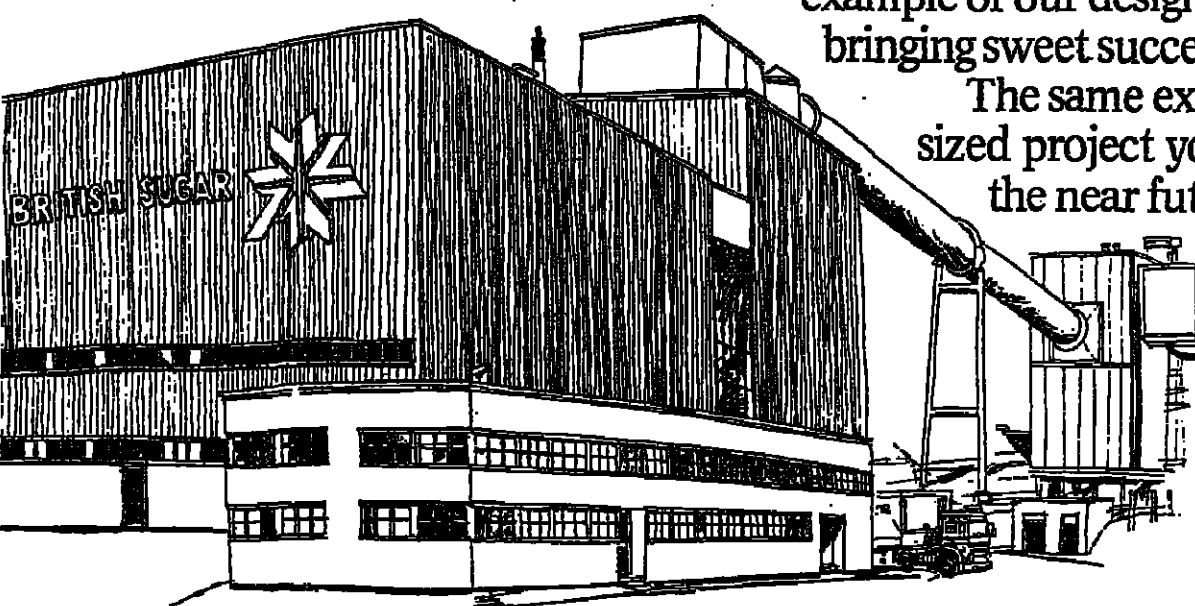
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Death of Aquino inspires opposition to launch Gandhi-style crusade

From Keith Dalton
Manila

Supporters of the murdered Filipino opposition leader Benigno Aquino intend to mount a prolonged civil disobedience campaign against the government of President Ferdinand Marcos.

It will be modelled on the non-violent protest by Gandhi against the British in India, although opposition sources say details and methods are still being discussed.

Leaders of the People's Power party, which is more commonly known by its acronym Laban, met over the weekend to discuss the mechanics of what some observers believe could become a powerful populist movement and a serious challenge to the 18-year Marcos regime.

Laban challenged the ruling New Society Movement in parliamentary elections five years ago for the 21 seats of metropolitan Manila.

The party was led by Aquino, who campaigned from his cell in a suburban army camp against the government candidates, who were headed by the President's powerful wife, Imelda.

Laban lost amid charges of vote-buying and election-rigging and has since been largely inactive, although last year it did join forces with the Mindanao-based Filipino Democratic Party in the southern Philippines.

Aquino's assassination on August 21, moments after returning from three years' self-exile in the US, appears to have joined Laban back to life. The idea of a



Mahatma Gandhi: Protest modelled on his style

Gandhi-style crusade was born during a six-hour closed meeting of the party leadership.

They also demanded the resignation of Mr Marcos, the Cabinet and key military officials. In recent years Aquino is said to have studied closely the life and protest actions of Gandhi.

Opposition sources say this is what Aquino, a born-again Christian, had in mind when he spoke of a peaceful, non-violent revolution.

He referred to Gandhi in his

arrival statement, but he was shot at Manila airport before he could deliver it.

"According to Gandhi, the willing sacrifice of the innocent is the most powerful answer to insolent tyranny that has yet been conceived by God and man," he wrote in the two-page statement.

During last week's huge funeral procession in Manila, which saw well over one million people mob the jolly bearing Aquino's flag-draped coffin, one sign bobbed up above the heads: "Ninoy our Gandhi." Aquino was commonly known by his nickname, Ninoy.

Miss Kristina Aquino, his youngest child, told reporters after the funeral that her father liked to watch the award-winning film *Gandhi* but she did not understand why he liked it so much.

Laban looks set to match Aquino's words with deeds by initiating peaceful acts of public disobedience and exerting pressure on the Marcos government to restore full democracy.

The non-violent "programme of action" still to be drawn-up could see a bold departure from the opposition street demonstrations, rallies and election boycotts of the past.

Inconvenience

Nairobi (Reuters)—A leopard which strayed into a housing estate near the centre of Nairobi was finally cornered in a public toilet by game wardens who tranquillized it with a dart gun.



Hero's welcome: Señor Andrés Zaldívar, Chile's Christian Democratic leader who has been in exile for three years, salutes 3,000 supporters who greeted his return to Santiago, the largest demonstration in almost 10 years of military rule

McFarlane flies back to Beirut

Washington (AFP)—Mr Robert McFarlane, the American presidential envoy left yesterday on a new mission to the Middle East.

It's main assignment will be to try to work out a settlement in Lebanon permitting the Lebanese army to take control of the regions from which Israeli troops withdrew.

Mr McFarlane reported to Mr Reagan and his main advisers on Saturday on the results of his recent five-week shuttle diplo-

macy aimed at shoring up President Gemayel's attempts to have the reorganized Lebanese Army regain control of the country.

The US is maintaining contact with the leaders of the warring Lebanese forces and with the Israeli authorities, who intend to pull back south of the Awali river and leave the weak Lebanese Army to try to prevent a flare-up in the Chouf mountains where Christian and Druze Militias are

strongly dug in.

The National Security Council meeting which President Reagan and Mr McFarlane attended here did not recommend that the President change his policy in Lebanon.

The White House declined to say whether Washington wanted the Israelis to put off further their southward redeployment pending a political accord between President Gemayel, a Maronite Christian, and Muslim factions.

Shamir says he will ask Labour to join Israeli coalition

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Likud's nominee for Israel's next Prime Minister, said this weekend he will try to get the Labour opposition to join a government of national unity but his efforts yesterday focussed on reconstituting the same narrow coalition that ruled under Mr Menachem Begin.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Opposition leader, meanwhile invited representatives of the National Religious Party and the Tami Party for talks about joining his own concept of "the broadest possible coalition" under his leadership. Officials of the NRP and Tami said they will tell Mr Peres they were committed at this time to give Mr Shamir the first chance.

Mr Begin, who announced his decision to resign last Sunday, chaired yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting and made no mention of his intention to stand down.

At the request of his party, he has put off submitting his letter of resignation to President Herzog until Mr Shamir sews up a new coalition agreement so that the President will have no option but to give the mandate to the Likud candidate.

Labour has claimed first chance because it has 53 seats in Parliament to Likud's 46.

Parties representing 64 of the 120 deputies in the House have signed a statement to the President informing him that they intend to join a government under Mr Shamir but they did not fully commit themselves.

Some of their conditions will be particularly hard to satisfy. The

Agudat Israel demand solid guarantees that the Knesset will pass controversial legislation restricting archaeological digs at sites believed to have contained cemeteries, as well as a Bill which will deny recognition of conversions to Judaism by non-orthodox rabbis. Tami demands economic measures approved by the Government last month be revoked.

The mavericks include four members of the liberal faction on Likud and two independents. They had argued that neither Likud nor Labour could function effectively when it depends on small vested interest groups such as religious or ethnic parties.

Likud leaders said it was highly improbable that Labour would take up the invitation in view of the deep ideological differences between the parties, particularly concerning the future of occupied territories which Likud wants to keep but Labour offers to divide with the Arabs in a compromise.

At a meeting of the incumbent coalition executive in Jerusalem yesterday, a committee of Likud ministers was formed to hold bilateral negotiations today with the National Religious Party, Agudat Israel, Tami, Tcheiya and independents to settle differences and try to complete a new agreement today.

Ulus's trip

Ankara, Turkey (AP)—Mr Bulend Ulus, Prime Minister of Turkey, left on the first leg of an official week-long visit to Malaysia, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

McGovern to seek nomination

Washington—Mr George McGovern, who was defeated by President Nixon in 1972 in the worst landslide in American political history, is planning to make a comeback (Nicholas Ashford writes).

The 61-year-old former senator from South Dakota is expected to announce within the next two weeks that he intends to seek the Democratic nomination in next year's presidential race. If he does, he will become the seventh Democrat in the race.

Mr McGovern, who lost his Senate seat in 1980, said he would focus on President Reagan's "hard-line and interventionist foreign policy" and the "uncontrolled budget deficits".

Fatal stunt

Peterborough, Canada (AP)—Ken Carter, a stuntman, was killed on Saturday when his rocket-powered Firebird flipped over and landed on its roof as he was attempting to break the world record for jumping a car ramp-to-ramp over a pond.

Aeroflot crash

Moscow (AFP)—A Soviet Aeroflot aircraft on an internal flight crashed near the airport at the Kazakhstan capital Almaty on August 30 killing all on board, the newspaper *Kazakhstan Pravda* reports.

Toll of misery

Karachi (Reuters)—Fifteen million children in the Third World die each year because of disease, malnutrition, parental ignorance and a lack of hygiene, according to the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

Iraq pledge

Baghdad (Reuters)—Iraq marked the third anniversary of its war with Iran yesterday with a vow that it would continue fighting until the end of the century unless a just solution to the conflict was reached.

Pilot's reward

Taipei (Reuters)—A Chinese Air Force pilot who defected with his MIG-21 fighter to South Korea last month has been given \$3.5m (£2.3m) in gold as a reward and also made a full Colonel in the Taiwan Air Force.

300 protesters held in blockade of US bases

Mutlangen (Reuters)—An anti-nuclear autumn campaign by the West German peace movement against Nato nuclear arms plans began at the weekend with blockades of two US air bases.

Police used water cannon and detained about 300 protesters who tried to block deliveries to the Bitburg US base in the south of the country on Friday and Saturday, but by Saturday night all but one had been released.

Those detained included Herr Gerd Bastian, parliamentary deputy of the anti-nuclear Greens Party and a former army general, and Mr Daniel Ellsberg, a former US government defence adviser.

The three-day blockade of Mutlangen base, one of three US camps which may take new Pershing 2 nuclear missiles this winter, ended in a 5,000-strong rally. This was only half the total turnout predicted earlier by peace movement leaders.

At the end of the blockade, an unidentified woman set fire to herself near the entrance, but police beat out the flames with blankets and she was not hurt.

US forces made no attempt to move equipment in or out of the base and there were no clashes with police. "There have been no

From M G G Pillai

Kuala Lumpur

Maintaining the dignity of public officials is a full-time occupation in many Third World countries and Malaysia is no exception. A combination of overzealous civil servants and questionable advice has landed Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, in a political embarrassment over his new official residence into which he is moving this week.

No one in officialdom, not even the Prime Minister, wants to talk about it, but it is becoming a focal point of criticism among influential members of his United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the main partner in the ruling "National Front" coalition. At the recent UMNO party convention, one delegate referred to it as "Buckingham Palace".

The final bill for the *maha ligai* (Malay for a building larger than a palace), as it is being commonly referred to, would be at least 20m ringgit (about £5.6m) or three times more than was originally budgeted for.

Datuk Seri Mahathir did not want to stay at Seri Taman, where two of his predecessors lived, ostensibly because it was next to the residence of the Inspector-General of Police. It is now a museum for Tun Abdul Razak, the only one of four Malaysian heads of government since independence in 1957 to have died.

The Prime Minister, with a fondness for catchy slogans to explain his policies—"clean, efficient, trustworthy"—administration is one; "leading through example" another—has staked his political career on turning Malaysia into an industrialized country and looking to Japan as an example for Malaysians.

Aimed at making his politically dominant Bumiputera community work as hard as, or harder than, the Chinese community, in Malaysia, the so-called "look east" policy and the tendency to give negotiated projects to Japanese and Korean firms has had the effect of shutting out the very people it was intended to help. Many local small Bumiputera contractors, who are a force within UMNO, exist by doing small subcontracts for big contractors. But Japanese and Korean firms do everything themselves and import everything from home, including "water" in one case distilled drinking water.

And the costs grow. In one controversial project, they have nearly doubled.

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Korean jet crisis: lack of Soviet remorse dismays: mourners throw portraits into sea

Russian refusal to accept guilt at UN proves self-defeating

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Moscow's refusal to depart from the classic Soviet approach to crisis, which seeks to place all blame on the United States, has angered diplomats from a broad political spectrum at the United Nations and has illustrated how diplomatically self-defeating the rigidity of the Soviet system can be.

This lack of diplomatic finesse in public has also been extended in private where diplomats say the Russians have failed to show any remorse for destroying the aircraft or give private assurances that an investigation will be launched. Observers point out that Moscow could have spared itself a good deal of worldwide indignation by announcing an inquiry.

Instead, suggestions that the aircraft was gathering intelligence and of American complicity in spying have given countries an open invitation to condemn the Soviet Union and call the character of its regime into question. Although diplomats say it is doubtful that high Russian officials ordered the attack, they have given the semblance of guilt.

Families going to Seoul for funeral service

From Richard Hughes, Hong Kong

An estimated 330 relatives of the 14 Hongkong passengers killed in the Korean Air Lines jumbo jet will fly to Seoul for a funeral service in memory of the victims of the disaster.

The Seoul service will be held in a square near the Han River which can accommodate 500,000 people. The Hongkong locals will join another 500 relatives of passengers coming from all over the world to attend the service.

Korean Air Line officials said that the airline will pay all expenses. They have already announced compensation of \$75,000 (£50,000) for each adult passenger in the disaster but are still discussing compensation for children.

A nine-year-old Hongkong girl, who was a friend and neighbour of the youngest victim among the 269 passengers killed, has written a personal letter to President Yuri Andropov.

She is Choi Man-Yee, and she asked Mr Andropov why her eight-year-old friend Yuen-Wai-Sum was killed. She requested permission to visit Sakhalin to perform Buddhist rites at the scene of death.

Modelled on the letter written earlier this year by the 11-year-old American schoolgirl, Samantha Smith, Man-Yee's letter asks why "the Russians are so cruel" and says she wants to make her visit "to make offerings to Wai-Sum".

Plaintive cries as relations visit crash area

Relatives of the Korean airliner which crashed yesterday towards the disputed crash site, but could not enter Soviet territorial waters.

"I don't have to follow me," a 14-year-old girl cried out to the sea when the 790-ton ferry carried 47 relatives of 13 lost passengers to a point some 30 miles off the Soviet island of Moneron.

"Brother, do you hear me?" and "Let's go home together" echoed over the water as the relatives - mostly Japanese - threw wreaths of flowers, personal belongings and framed portraits into the sea under an overcast sky. Japanese television crews filmed the pilgrimages.

Meanwhile, families by the Soviet territorial boundaries, 14 Japanese boats and two US military aircraft conducted search operations off Moneron, west of the strategic island of Sakhalin and near where the Korean jet apparently went down with 269 people on board.

But they found nothing substantial, except some presumably unrelated floats.

Three Soviet patrol and survey ships were spotted off Moneron. A Russian Rybinsk military aircraft was also seen flying over the area.

The mourners spent seven hours on board the ferry which left Wakkanai, on the Northern tip of Japan's Hokkaido Island, in a morning drizzle.

Wakkanai, which is only 40 miles from Sakhalin and has a powerful Japanese military monitoring post, is serving as the headquarters for the search.

A fact-finding mission of 42 South Koreans arrives today at Wakkanai. The mission - including nine airline officials, three representatives of the jet's passengers and 30 journalists - will make a similar ferry trip.

"More than anything else, we would like to know the truth behind the incident," Mr Yun Kyong Ro, aged 47, whose 35-year-old brother was a purser on the ill-fated flight, told a news conference during a stopover at Chitose in the South of Hokkaido.

Mr Cho Chung-Kun, the Korean Airlines vice-president, said the family of each passenger on the flight would receive about \$50,000 as tentative compensation.

Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japan's Prime Minister, denounced the Soviet missile attack as an "unimaginable, barbarous act" which could "never be condoned".

Speaking to his party officers in Kanagawa, southwest of Tokyo, he praised Japan's defence capability in an apparent reference to its monitoring of Soviet military activities at the time of the incident.



Sea of sorrow: Mei Osaka, aged 8 (foreground) and Mai Osaka, aged 11, cast flowers into the waters near the spot where their father died in the Korean jumbo jet

An American patrol aircraft also reported sighting what looked like a small boat in the area but a Japanese patrol boat could not track it down.

The aircraft also guided a Japanese patrol boat yesterday to a drifting object, about 40 miles west of Moneron, which turned out to be styrofoam block usually used for packaging.

● Reports denied: The Soviet Union denied reports yesterday that it had recovered the bodies of some passengers.

Mr Isenbal Abdurazakov, counsellor at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo, told a Japanese foreign ministry official here that no bodies had been found as of yesterday morning, and therefore "the reports are groundless."

The denial came when the Soviet diplomat was summoned to the foreign ministry and given Japan's renewed demand that the Soviet Union allow Japanese boats in Soviet territorial waters to search for passengers and wreckage of the KAL plane.

According to Admiral Inman, navigational error caused by an incorrect computer programme could explain why the Korean

Admiral Inman: 'No other explanation'

Intelligence expert supports theory of computer error

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A computer error may have caused the Korean airliner to stray deep into Soviet airspace where it was eventually shot down, according to Admiral Bobby Inman, a leading American intelligence expert.

In an interview with the Washington Post, Admiral Inman, a former head of the National Security Agency who recently retired as deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said a substantial mistake was probably made in programming the Boeing 747's navigation system. "I don't know any other way this series of events could have occurred unless that happened," he said.

However other analysts have already dismissed this theory, pointing out that the airliner was equipped with three separate sets of sophisticated navigational equipment that were designed to prevent course deviation caused by a breakdown in one of the units.

They said it was unlikely that all three units were malfunctioning and even if they were, the pilot had other ways of checking the aircraft's course.

One possible explanation which American analysts are studying is that the airliner might have deliberately tried to take a short cut through Soviet airspace. However Korean Air Lines Officials have rejected such a possibility, pointing out that all pilots flying on that route were well aware of the dangers of penetrating Soviet air space.

Analysts concede that the real reason that the airliner strayed more than 300 miles into Soviet airspace, passing over sensitive Soviet defence installations on the Kamchatka peninsula and Sakhalin Island, may never be known.

The Americans have been able to obtain only incomplete intercepts of the radio messages to and from the aircraft during the two-and-a-half hours it was off course. It is not expected that the Russians will be willing to share information contained in the aircraft's "black box" flight recorder if it is salvaged from Soviet territorial waters.

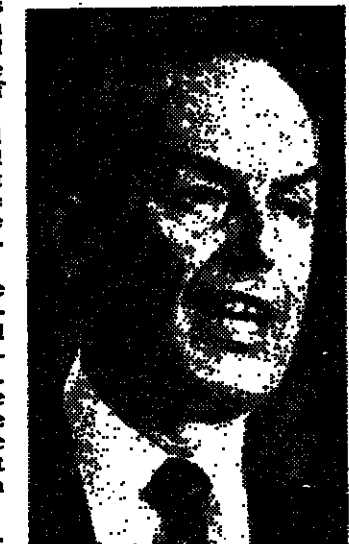
According to Admiral Inman, navigational error caused by an incorrect computer programme could explain why the Korean

pilot apparently ignored Soviet warnings that the airliner was off course. He said that it was common for Soviet jets to "buzz" aircraft flying close to their airspace and if the Korean pilot believed he was on course over international waters he would not follow a signal from a Soviet aircraft to divert and land.

"It may well be that the Koreans had previously had aircraft come up, look at them, pace and proceed back... the presence itself of fighters therefore would not be an instant cause for great alarm."

Admiral Inman believes the decision to shoot the airliner down was routinely taken by a local commander in the region where the disaster occurred. However, because of the way information flows centrally in the Soviet Union, senior officers at the air defence headquarters in Moscow must have known what was happening and could have prevented the disaster.

After the shooting of another Korean airliner in 1978 the Soviet Union had established an autonomous air defence system, providing regional commanders with the authority to intercept and, if necessary, shoot down any aircraft intruding into Soviet air space.



Admiral Inman: 'No other explanation'

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS

SPECTRUM

In the 1960s robots were hailed as the answer to the problems of the industrial world. Today the experts are not so sure. In the first of three articles Piers Burnett explains why the march of the reliable cheap and accurate machine has been halted

Spanner in the robot's works

During the nineteenth century, when the use of mass armies became a realistic proposition, it became fashionable to assess the international balance of power in demographic terms: a falling birthrate in one generation would, it was argued, condemn a nation to military impotence in the next. A single invention, the machine gun, sufficed to demolish the argument.

But the theme has recently surfaced in a novel guise. This time the capacity measured is industrial rather than military, and the yardstick applied is not the number of young men a country has available for military service, but the size of its robot workforce. A recent publication by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development is but the latest of several surveys to adopt this criterion, and it is perhaps no accident that being photographed next to a robot now seems a more potent political gesture than kissing a baby.

By any standards, whether absolute or relative, Britain is doing badly in the robot race. In 1982 British industry was able to muster a paltry 1,500 robots compared with some 13,000 in Japan. This puts us roughly on a par with Sweden, with the difference that when the figure is related to the number of workers employed Britain had one robot for every 10,000 workers and the Swedes had 30 (1981 figures). Moreover, in the OECD's opinion, matters are unlikely to improve. If experience is anything to go by, it is the big robot makers (the US, Japan and Sweden, in that order) who will continue to be the leading robot users.

But before accepting a lack of robots as yet another symptom of industrial malaise, it is worth pausing to try to discover whether industry is likely to be able to turn an unlimited supply of robots to our collective advantage any better than the generals of 1914-18 were able to extract the anticipated victories from the millions of young men who were put at their disposal. This involves some appreciation of what a robot actually is, what it can, and, more importantly, cannot, do, and of the chances of robots widening their repertoire of skills over the next decade or so.

Conditioned by science fiction, with its cast of walking, talking mechanical men, we all too easily leap to the conclusion that, if a machine is dubbed a "robot", it must have a range of abilities and an intelligence that approximate our own. In fact, as robotists are well aware, attaching the label of robot to the kinds of manipulators that are currently in use is an expression of premature optimism rather than a statement of real accomplishment.

The contemporary industrial robot, in the eyes of politicians and others, may wear the halo of high technology, but it came into being to meet a rather

mundane need. In the booming labour market of the early 1960s it became increasingly difficult to find people willing to do boring, repetitive and unpleasant jobs. What was wanted was not a machine which could master elaborate human skills, but one which could provide the mindless *lumpenproletariat* demanded by mass production. As Joseph Engleberger, the founder of Unimation Inc., the pioneers of industrial robotics, put it: "...most manufacturers have broken down their processes into small elements. Each operator has to learn one sequence of operations, which he is then required to perform over and over again. The degree of skill is low and there is little to learn."

What had to be learnt, and proved well within the robot's capacity, were sequences of precise movement of the arm and hand ("end effector", in robotic parlance). Such sequences were relatively easily programmed into a computer memory, especially after the advent of the microprocessor freed robots from their dependence on the giant mainframe computers of the 1960s. But however impressive, even uncanny, a robot may appear to the layman as it repeats a series of movements with flawless precision, it is in fact operating blindly and by rote.

Even robotists can be taken in by the illusion of intelligence. The story is told of a Japanese robotist who demonstrated his machine to a group of British scientists. The audience were electrified by the fact that the robot was, apparently, able to lob a ball into a wastepaper basket with unerring accuracy - in robotic terms, a prodigious feat. The astonishment was short lived. Ingeniously, the robotist explained that, having trained the robot to toss the ball, he then positioned the wastepaper basket to intercept it!

Repetitive manipulation is, of course, a skill common to many machines; what differentiates the robot is that it makes use of an articulated arm analogous to the human limb and that it can be reprogrammed to perform a whole variety of tasks without the need to redesign or adjust its mechanical components. There are, however, a limited range of applications in which a manipulator arm, operating blindly and without intelligence, is useful. Looking through manufacturers' catalogues one is struck not by the machines' versatility, but by the monotonous repetition of a sort of litany of robot functions: machine tool loading and unloading, spot welding, paint spraying and parts transfer being the commonest.

Whatever its task, a robot is dependent for its effectiveness upon a whole supporting cast of automated machines. Everything must be presented to it in consistent positions and orientations; it can only operate in a world of guaranteed predictability. Indeed, to consider robots in isolation from automation in general is rather



like studying an ant which has been removed from an anthill - it is an ingenious but purposeless curiosity. The need to provide an automated environment has so far restricted robot use to large scale industry, businesses such as specialist machine shops, producing small batches of many different items, have little incentive to set up the paraphernalia of conveyors, jigs and electronic communication which a robot requires.

The robot's lack of intelligence also limits the use that can be made of its flexibility. It is, for example, perfectly possible to teach a machine to stack parcels on a pallet, but this will involve ensuring that parcels are of a consistent shape and size and that both pallet and parcels are predictably positioned. Moreover, the robot will have to be laboriously taught to put the first parcel in the far left hand corner of the pallet, the second next to it... the tenth on top of the first, the eleventh on top of the second, and so on, hardly an effort to be undertaken in a factory where the kind of goods to be packed may vary from hour to hour.

Those who leap to the conclusion that the provision of more and more robots is a guaranteed elixir of industrial health should also be aware that there is a substantial body of opinion which argues that, rather than being the universal worker of the future, the robot is no more than a stop-gap expedient forced upon us by the limitations of insufficient and inadequate automation. Automation, the argument goes, achieves its really spectacular successes when it abandons the attempt to do things in ways based on human skills and finds solutions that are quite novel and intrinsically mechanical. Replacing wired circuits, which are fiddly for human beings and virtually impossible for machines to assemble, with printed circuits which machines can manufacture with ease is an obvious example. The need for robots arises, it is suggested, only because imperfect automation has left a number of gaps in the industrial scheme of things which require the particular skills of the human - or robot - hand. But this is a temporary state of affairs which will be remedied when a new generation of automated equipment dispenses totally with anthropomorphic methods.

Against this view are those who argue that the robot has the potential to climb the ladder of skills and intelligence so rapidly that it will outpace any conceivable advances in automation. Moreover, it is claimed, the arguments in favour of "hard" automation ignore economic realities. Industry will not be able to afford the kind of investment that is required to install complex, special-purpose machines, with all the attendant risks of premature obsolescence if products or methods suddenly change.

The robot offers a sensible half-way house; it provides an economic (and relatively reliable) substitute for human labour while also having a degree of flexibility that is attractive. What has yet to be established is that robots have it in them to advance from the status of blind, preprogrammed serfs to that of a skilled and adaptive labour force, capable of learning new tricks and acting on their own initiative without the need for human tutelage at every stage.

In particular, hopes for the robot's survival as a distinctive species rest upon the prospects of it being able to replace human labour in assembly work, an area of industry that has remained labour intensive and resistant to mechanization while being notoriously repetitive and "mechanical". Already robots have gained a foothold in assembly, especially in cases where products can be put together on the so-called "pancake" principle, which involves no more than placing one component on top of another and securing the whole assembly with a single screw. In the case of items which are to be mass produced it may well prove worthwhile to undertake the redesign of products in order to make them susceptible to robot methods.

It is with applications like assembly in mind that many of the most recent additions to the robot menagerie have been designed specifically to replace, or work alongside, human workers, occupying roughly the same space and having a similar radius of action; though, unlike a human being, the robot will require a good deal of hard automation to ensure that components are delivered in a predictable fashion. Another approach to the problem has been to incorporate the robot arm in a

system which forms a self-contained microcosm, an area the size of a large tabletop on which everything is positioned with guaranteed accuracy so that the robot is sheltered from the bewildering complexity of the factory floor.

But if robots are ever to become a truly adaptive, general purpose labour force, and if they are ever to work alongside human beings as "colleagues" rather than tools, they will have to acquire a visual faculty, an ability to communicate in natural language and a level of intelligence that at least approximate human eyesight, language use and common sense. The chances of any of these objectives being achieved within the near future has, until recently, hinged entirely upon the chances of the digital computer - the machine which provides the "brain" in all existing robots - mastering the kind of everyday routine intelligence which we, as human beings, take for granted. Unfortunately, though it is undeniable that computers can achieve a level of intelligence which far outstrips human beings in many respects, the signs are that they may not be able to master the more humdrum business of perceiving, understanding and coping with the real world.

This failure, if failure it proves, will have implications that go beyond the purely utilitarian. For one of the more interesting questions in robotics is whether, by coupling a computer brain to a mechanical body, we can create an artificial version of the continuum of mind and body which lies at the heart of our own sense of mystery about our identity as living beings. In the long term, the possibility that the robot might offer a valid and intelligible model of man the thinker may be just as significant as its ability to substitute for man the industrial worker.

Piers Burnett is the co-author, with Igor Aleksander, of *Reinventing Man: The Robot Becomes Reality* to be published by Kogan Page later this year.

TOMORROW Why computers cannot master child's play

tures of 90 degrees in London and the mid-80s elsewhere in the country became commonplace. On the last day of the month the Bristol Weather Centre announced that it had been the hottest July for 324 years.

The discernible effects of the weather now included guests fainting at Buckingham Palace garden parties, seaside authorities getting hot at a rash of topless sunbathing, and the closure of motorways because of melting tar.

It was, by general agreement, the best summer since 1976, and the Met Office confirms that it has been the warmest and driest since then. It would also have been the sunniest had not much of July been hazily humid rather than blazing sunny.

But 1983 cannot quite match the vintage of '76 on any of the three main counts. At the London Weather Centre, the mean temperature for this year's three summer months was 19.5 deg Centigrade, compared with 20.2 deg Centigrade for 1976. Rainfall, perhaps surprisingly, was 70.2mm compared with a only 27.6mm in 1976, but that is largely explained by a few violent thunderstorms. And the hours of sunshine, although a delectable 664.9 in London this summer, fall well short of the 810.3 hours of 1976.

August in London has been the sunniest since 1981 with 218 shining hours, 21 per cent above the 20-year average.

The mean temperature for the month in the capital averaged out at a balmy 19.6 deg Centigrade, which is almost 2 deg Centigrade above the average, and is exactly the same as 1976.

One body of men who have been unusually muted for such a long dry spell are the water authorities, whose potential problems have been greatly mitigated by the wetness of the spring. The Government did not consider it necessary to attempt a repeat of the feat of Mr Denis Howell, who conjured rain from the skies within a day of his appointment as Minister of Drought in 1976.

But there are some who are never satisfied, whatever the weather. Towards the end of spring, farmers were wringing their hands over sodden fields, complaining that they had to keep cattle indoors, or they would trample the pasture into a quagmire. Now, after the dry spell, farmers are again crying havoc; they are having to break into winter forage because all the grass has dried up.

But for the rest of us, the only likely disappointment of the summer of 1983 is going to be the summer of 1984.

Alan Hamilton

moreover...
Miles Kington

Enjoying a cultural jet lag

Edinburgh

By the time I read this I shall be back from two weeks on the Edinburgh Fringe and starting to catch up on two weeks' loss of sleep - a trip to Edinburgh at Festival time provides the most extended form of cultural jet lag known to man, and perhaps the most enjoyable. It is an experience which, rather like the Notting Hill carnival or going through Heathrow cannot adequately be described in words or conveyed to someone who has never done it.

One misconception should be cleared up though. We talk glibly about going to the Edinburgh Festival. There is no such thing. There are only Edinburgh festivals. I don't just mean the division between the official Festival and the Fringe - though I find to my surprise that I have been to nearly a hundred Fringe productions in the last ten years, but have never seen an official event. I mean that there are lots of festivals going on at the same time, which only intersect by accident.

There is the Film Festival for instance. There is a folk festival going on at the Aal Centre, which was not so called, as you might think, to get first place in the alphabetical listing, but comes from an old Scottish word meaning old. Actually they only come second in the listings, first place went to a production called *Aadurgh* which probably comes from an old Scottish word for pub closing time.

There is also a roaring jazz festival sponsored by Dryborough's Beers, and it is nice for once to come across a sponsor whose product is intimately concerned with the cultural event in question. Dozens of bands, mostly trad, have been performing at dozens of pubs round the city and round the clock, turning the place into a sort of Georgian style New Orleans.

The first group I caught was the Fred Hunt Trio backing Jim Galloway, a marvelous Scottish soprano saxophonist now resident in Canada, and the rapt attention of the beer-clutching crowd would have done credit to a mime show audience on the Fringe. (More than credit, in fact. Mime performers this year have added a lot of sound to their acts. David Glass's highly significant show, or what you and I would call highly pretentious show, was one of the noisiest things on the Fringe. I have even heard complaints that some cabarets are inaudible and some mimes are far too noisy, which is an interesting cultural development.)

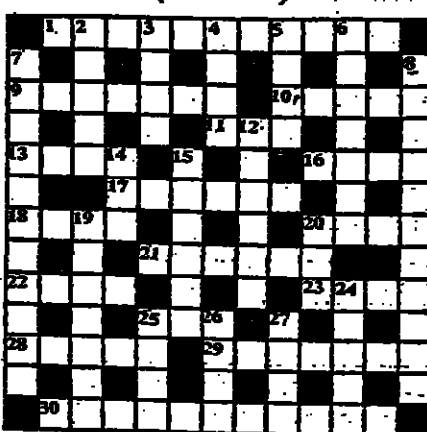
I don't suppose that many jazz supporters have been to mime shows, or vice versa, nor that either of them have been to visit the Television Festival. I asked one television visitor what was so festive about the Television Festival and he replied, quite honestly:

"Nothing - it's just another conference. It's a chance to chat up people about jobs and it is also the one week in the year when we can get together and think about what we are meant to be doing in television."

The honesty lies in the clear admission that during the other 51 weeks they do not think about that kind of thing at all.

In the years when I don't come to Edinburgh for the Festival or I should say festivals, I read about it from a distance and wonder what all the fuss is about. When I do come I wonder why life can't be like this all the time: a kind of perpetual high.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 141)



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Frankish (11) | 2. Dialect (5) |
| 9. Large building (7) | 3. Cap (4) |
| 10. Of Ireland (5) | 4. Capital schools body (11,1,1,1) |
| 11. Also (3) | 5. Not occupied (4) |
| 13. Clutter (4) | 6. Put to use (7) |
| 16. Fall to hit (4) | 7. Encouragement (11) |
| 17. Modified (6) | 8. Continuing feline (8,3) |
| 18. On top of (4) | 9. Snowman (4) |
| 20. Abominable snowman (4) | 10. Narcotic (6) |
| 21. Narcotic (6) | 11. Cooking dish (3) |
| 22. Polar state (4) | 12. Approach (4,2) |
| 23. Dull pain (6) | 13. Thrust forward (7) |
| 25. Health resort (3) | 14. Yes (3) |
| 26. Sofa (5) | 15. Fisherman's basket (5) |
| 29. Fiery monster (7) | 16. Fake (4) |
| 30. Allowable (11) | 17. Disputes referee (1,1,1,1) |
| | 18. Sound equipment (2,2) |

(Solution to Saturday's prize puzzle will appear on Saturday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

The first-class cricket season is all but over, league soccer is already with us, and the isobars on the weather map are suddenly as crowded as boiling Brits on Benidorm beach. Summer is gone, soon to be recalled in the glow of memory's roseate hue. Was it really such a scorcher? Meteorological records confirm that it

was certainly one of the better ones, welcome reassurance that the long English summer did not die with the nineteenth century. It was all the more appreciated, coming after an endlessly dismal spring as torrid as the ensuing summer was torrid.

Met Office statisticians will require a few weeks more to

polish up their league tables, but their provisional figures indicate that the summer of '83 will have been the seventh-warmest since 1659, and the fourth-driest since 1727. Yet the meteorologists calculate that the amount of sunshine was less noteworthy than we who basked in it might imagine. 1983 looks like being only the fifteenth-sunniest summer this century.

There was a depressingly long period when it seemed that even one of our typically depressing summers might never come. Wet weather took hold of the country on March 14, and resolutely refused to go away. In the ensuing 62 days the London Weather Centre recorded only six days free from measurable amounts of rain. More than six inches of rain, two-and-a-half times the normal level, fell in nine weeks.

Only the ducks and the bookmakers made sport of it, the latter offering 5-1 against two consecutive dry days. By mid May, flat racing had lost 26 day's meetings and £400,000 potential prize money, of 80 playing hours at Lord's, 70 had been spent in the pavilion.

It was the wettest April since the London Weather Centre started collecting records 20 years ago, and May very nearly took similar dishonours. It was no use, the experts said, blaming the dust of distant volcanoes; it

Summer's over and not a dry eye in the house

was all the fault of a deep depression over northern Scotland which refused to shift. For the months of March, April and May almost the whole country suffered undue rain, from 1 per cent above the 30-year norm in the celebrated sunny isle of Tiree, to more than double in East Anglia. Everywhere was cold and dull.

Spring went out like a polar bear, with three inches of snow on the M40 in Buckinghamshire on May 21, and summer came in like a toothache, with a burst of torrential thunderstorms on June 1. It could only get better.

In fact, June remained cool and dull in most places, although relatively dry. But July did not disappoint, and tempera-



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MODERN TIMES



A sideways look at the British way of life

More than a sneaking liking of cats began for me when my girlfriend's uncle, who was something Big in Small Tools, tried to "master" her cat Tinker Bell. "You have to show them who's boss", said the small, fat man. "It's just a question of being firm." The cat, a Siamese, grossly misnamed and the only creature I have seen whose eyes could turn from china blue to dangerous red like Rikiki-tikki-tavi in *Jungle Book*, looked at him in haughty disbelief.

Tinker Bell had a defence policy just as robust as Kipling's mongoose and was once seen riding a startled Labrador down the drive. She treated all humans as potential vivisectionists and no one

outside the family could pick her up without gloves. As we were in Yorkshire, Uncle donned a handy pair of wicketkeeping gloves. "I'll show her not to dig up your lettuce", he said.

Such people hate rebels and all her life Tinker Bell was a crusader against the chintzy sentimental image of Felix Catus fostered by the pet food industry, and even gave the vet a nasty nip with toothless gums when he came to put her down at the age of 19. She represented, in South Yorkshire at least, a campaign for real cats.

Not all cats are as forthright and honest in the loathing they have for humans and most owners are completely conned by their wily feline. The cosy ginger tom lolls around a hearthside looking as if butter would not melt between his fangs. But come nightfall Kittykins, or Pussywoos, or Twinklebottoms, or whatever strange name his master calls him will be off through the cat flap embarked on a night of sex and violence which would have made Caligula blush. "Oh look, Kitty's been hunting again", they say when he returns in the morning, a glazed smile on his face, legs giving beneath him and smelling like a drain.

Yet the country is going to the cats despite such antics. Nine million lurk in five million homes and the number, thanks to the grinning toms, is growing all the time. People buy cats in the mistaken belief that they are less expensive than dogs and can "stand on their own two feet". Most cats would find this very amusing.

There is little reason where attitudes to cats are concerned and the world divides into cat lovers and cat haters, often violently. Was it merely coincidence that Churchill and Roosevelt in the last war liked kitties, while Hitler, Mussolini and Franco loathed them? Stalin of course was ambivalent, having had to munch his way through many a moggy in Siberia.

Cat lovers often cause havoc with their wills. The socialist mayor of San Roque, the nearest Spanish town to Gibraltar, is hopping mad he cannot buy the mansion of Mrs Diana Breton-Lee and turn it into a student centre. When she died in May she left it to her 24 cats and there is nothing he can do short of provoking another Falklands conflict. They are mostly British cats.

Those who hate cats can be just as dotty. Wakefield Council actually banned an old lady

from keeping 30 cats on the novel grounds that "They are attracting mice". The poor officials had obviously been watching too much Tom and Jerry. Or could it be they still believe all cats are really sorcerers in disguise?

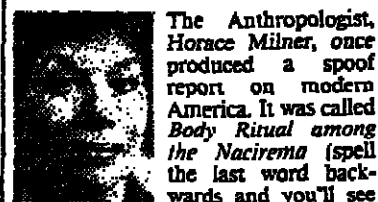
The Royal Family has always loathed cats and there is not a single mouser below stairs at Buckingham Palace: but "staff are allowed private cats in the Royal Mews", a spokesperson pronounced. Any cat that took itself off up to London to see the Queen and found the Duke of Edinburgh in the gun room would probably end up on the wall. The only hope on the horizon is that Princess Michael of Kent is dotty about them. Queen Victoria installed a black pot cat on the Frogmore Mausoleum to keep owls away from Prince Albert.

If you want to stop the march of the cat, tiger dung spread on the geraniums, signifying the beast's territory, is the sure way. The trouble is you need to find a friendly tiger and it's probably safer to put up with moggy. Even Tinker Bell never ate anyone.

Paul Pickering

Penny Perrick

Sorting out the Nacirema



The Anthropologist, Horace Milner, once produced a spoof report on modern America. It was called *Body Ritual among the Nacirema* (spell the last word backwards and you'll see the joke) and showed Americans to be a tribe of mystifying habits. No one knows this better than Miss Manners, alias Judith Martin, a widely syndicated advice columnist who tries very hard to kick the "Nacirema" tribe into some kind of civilized shape.

Most of the tribe's etiquette problems are self-imposed. Take, for instance, the middle which results from calling every eldest son after his father. Since Americans are a bawdy bunch, four men, identically labelled, may be going about their business at the same time. To avoid opening each other's mail, they are forced to add Senior, Junior, 3rd and 4th to their names until one of them dies and they all move up a notch, causing a criminal waste of personalized writing paper. Do they ask Miss Manners how they can best end the whole idiotic system by naming the next first-born son after a distant cousin? They do not. What worries them is whether the personalized writing paper should be headed John Smith 2nd or John Smith III. (By the way, Miss Manners thinks the latter is acceptable.)

At meal times, they make things difficult for themselves by chasing their food all around the plate with a fork instead of gently guiding it towards the tines with a knife. They spread sandwiches so thickly that they have to be held together with toothpicks and are impossible to eat without harpooning the upper lip. Perhaps the reason they over-eat their drinks is to anaesthetize injuries caused by an inadvertent sandwich.

Although eating and drinking is such an uncomfortable process, Americans demand, and get, non-stop refreshment. Thoroughly spoilt by being offered both coffee and doughnuts during a business meeting, one of Miss Manners' readers complained about the lack of tea. Miss Manners considered the complaint reasonable.

Miss Manners is at her most censorious regarding her clients' verbal customs. She has her work cut out here because, unlike more developed tribes who merely make a little conversation from time to time, Americans communicate. Miss Manners takes a sharp line with people who say: "I've been on a wonderful journey of self-discovery lately, and I'd like to share it with you". She takes an even sharper one with those who invite their friends to "partake in a ritual celebration of the congruence of their lives". She advises her readers that the proper word for curtains is curtains and not drapes, but allows them to say vase rather than vaiz, which shows that she sometimes allows her heart to overrule her head.

All-American sentimentality means poor Miss Manners must sort out behavioural problems which, with luck, will never reach our own shores. One such concerns the high school graduation. In this country, as we all know, the correct way to become a school-leaver is to sink through the gates on the last day of the last term, avoiding embarrassing farewell ceremonies with those teachers lives you have made hellish for the past six years.

You then, with a loud cry of "yippee", throw your school tie under the wheels of an oncoming bus. You are then considered ready for the big wide world. This is not enough for Americans who insist on ceremony, invitations, presents, dances and silly clothes at every turn. The mere fact that they have a child who has become too old to stay on at school any longer lets them in for all sorts of arguments over who is to be invited where and with whom; arguments which we wisely defer until our child gets married.

Americans have a primitive need to celebrate, even when the event in question lends itself more properly to quiet contemplation. I do not feel that people about to get married for the umpteenth time should be seeking Miss Manners' advice about what they should wear on their latest wedding day. Rather, they should spend their every waking hour soberly asking themselves whether husband number eight can succeed in giving everlasting love when husband number one to seven have failed. If wedding still seems like a sensible arrangement, it should take place without flower girls or fancy gloves.

Since we British have too much sense to partake in wedding showers or embroidery initials on our face flannels or eat our salad before our meat, there is very little that Miss Manners can teach us that we really need to know. Even so, the English publishing house Hamish Hamilton is publishing Miss Manners' *Guide to Extricatingly Correct Behaviour* in its original American format. As a guide to correct behaviour it's useless, but as an anthropological study of George Washington's people, it's unputdownable.

Sweet potatoes

After the spaghetti Western, the potato drama? Lured by lovely locations and amenable camera crews, film companies are flocking to Ireland. You can already see Dublin standing in for Liverpool in *Educating Rita*. Soon English millions permitting you'll be able to see Wozel Gammidge scaring the birds in the grounds of the same County Wicklow house which, last year, housed *The Irish R.M.* What with all these glamorous schematizations and offshore oil discovery, I expect Ireland to latch on fast to La Dolce Vita. Great luck for the Irish, but rotten for those of us who escape there as often as possible because it's the one place left in the world where you never need heated rollers or lip gloss.

Maybe they could just reserve one small piece of the Emerald Isle where pavement cafes and starlets in pink trousers and enough perfume to frighten the horses aren't allowed. Published on September 8 at £9.95.

It's the cat's whiskers



FELINE FLOTSAM

Celia Hammond

I was a fashion model in the 1960s and have been rescuing cats for about 18 years. One cannot be a model all one's life. I used to do it when I was working; now it takes up all of my life.



CATALOGUED

Mrs Brenda Wolstenholme

Yes, Tinypaws Cottage is, you could say, the nerve centre for the registration of short hair cats, and different people handle the other groups. We register transfer and changes of ownership and I suppose we are quite strict. I used to show my cats, but now I am a judge and don't have the opportunity, though I still have two British blues, two tabby point Siamese, one foreign black, a British tortoiseshell and a couple of strays. Some of the names we register are quite amusing: one man recently called his Cornish Rex James Winkle Esquire. Cat shows are very good natured and you never get the trouble you sometimes hear of at dog shows. But undoctored males can sometimes be a problem. One judge had to have her thumb amputated, but that sort of thing is very rare. However, we would not take points away for a cat merely being a bit angry: I have been breeding cats for 17 years and started just after we got married. My husband was a chef but we now run a boarding cattery and the cats are our family. We work, live and breathe cats. You cannot get away from them here.

and I concentrate on feral cats, which are domestic cats gone wild. The trouble is they breed and produce kittens they cannot feed. I have found that the way of dealing with the problem is to go round them up and ear-tickling them. Yes, yet high tails the tip of the left ear off, so we can recognize the ones we have done. We then let them go as there are not the best of felines. It's not a question of



PET SUBJECT

Terry Moore

It really all started in 1966 when I worked for an insurance company and went into Harrods' pet shop. They sold wild animals then and had a marmoset. I started to read about wild cats and got really involved and got the money together in about three weeks and went back to the shop and it had gone. But my interest got stronger and stronger and we co-founded the Cat Survival Trust, which now has a more comprehensive library than the Natural History Museum. I got my first cat, an ocelot called Lottie, in 1975 when we were living in a bungalow in Stevenage. By the time we bought this former chicken farm we had three ocelots, three wild cats, two bobcats and two jungle cats from India. Then, of course, we were not just interested in the animals as pets but from a serious conservation point of view. We now have 48 wild cats and are the first people in the world to breed Geoffroy's cat and to band rear and foster the kittens. There are 26 breeds of small wild cat, including the pampas cat and the swimming cat, and by breeding we can help them to survive.

cutting an alley cat off in his prime. They do not think "my God I've been castrated," it's just a local pain. At any one time I have about 40 cats, which are usually the flotsam of the cat world. At the moment a cat called George rules the others, but a new one is on the way up called BD and they are looked after by two big black shepherds, Buck and Joe. Someone's got to do it.



BAST MASTERS

Murray Hope and Patsy the Healer

Murray

Worship is perhaps the wrong word as we do not bow down before idols. We believe animals have souls and they are ready for the dustbin. The healing is based on mind over matter. We are not ritualists, although I am fascinated with ancient Egypt and have just written a book on it. Bast is us represents joy and happiness as well as caution and the maternal instinct.

Patsy

We do psychic healing for small animals and sometimes people, working in little groups. Bast is the female cat deity and it's a religion much older than Christianity, but it is very gentle. We have had successes and with something like cancer it depends on how far gone the animal or person is. We are very ordinary people. My husband is a sales director and I have four children and seven cats. There are lots of people who do worship Bast and although we are not participating Christians, we accept the Christ spirit. We are working for Light, if you understand me.



ALLEZ CAT

Maria Aitken

I had always been more used to dogs and, of course, pigs than cats. But if you keep pigs you cannot afford to get too fond of them. However, when I divorced my husband I divorced the pigs as well. I didn't need to go around with bright plum nails anymore because the dirt really does get ingrained. Then someone gave me a cat, Miss Pigeon, who I became very close to. She lives in my Marble Arch flat with her daughter Miss Python. Just before *Happy Family*, the first play I have directed and produced, I took Miss Pigeon to the vet's where she escaped into Kensington. We were in a panic and Nathan and I had 800 handbills printed with her details on. When we got back home the telephone rang and someone had found her in Letcham Gardens. You cannot imagine the relief, but then I was terribly worried the play was not going to be a success, because if you have a stroke of luck God can often pay you back. The play started in the hottest, slowest week of the summer but is fine now.



CLAWS 4

Neil Kimock

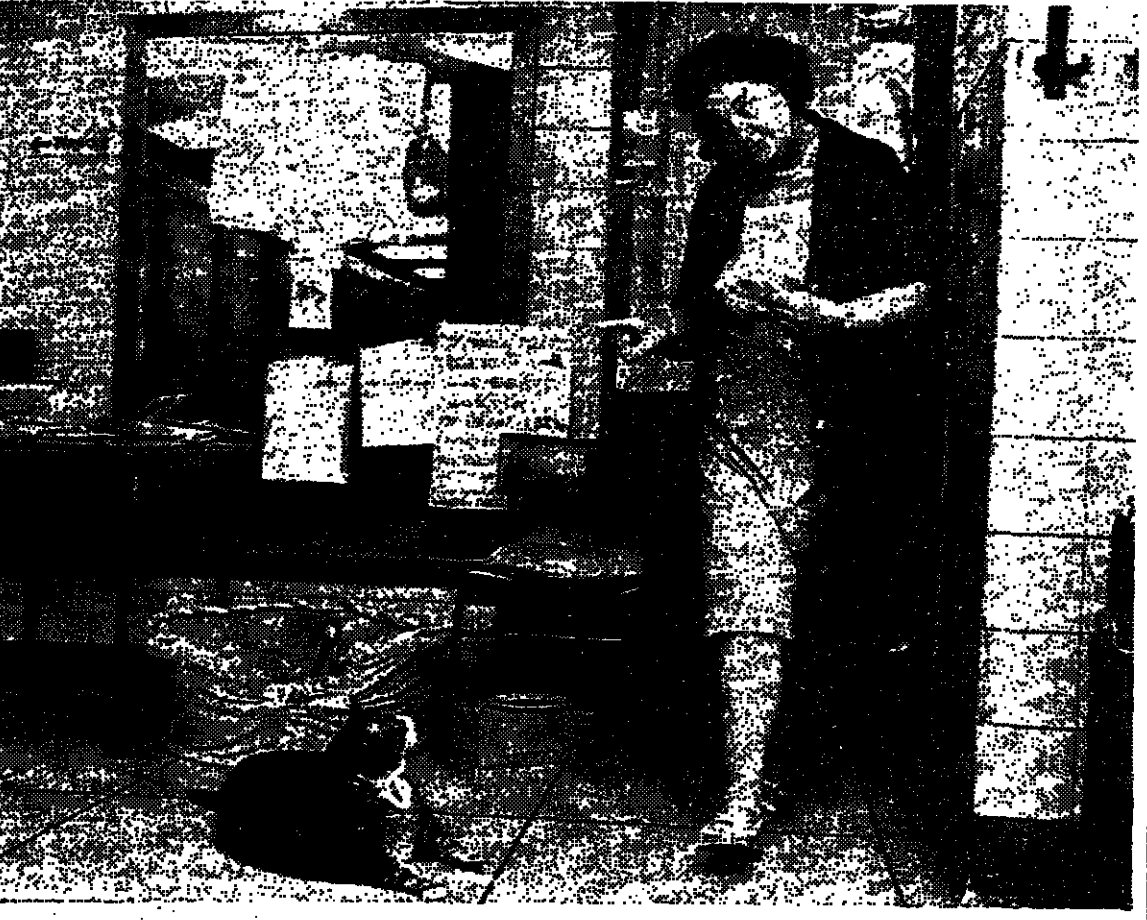
We have two cats in our house in Ealing. The first one is called Fluffy; that's the elder and my wife bought her in Blackpool in a pet shop for £1 at the 1980 Labour Party Conference and there was a great debate. We could not agree whether to call her Fluffy or Claws 4. Fluffy is top cat at the moment and the other one, who is also black, is a replacement for Tinkerbelle, who died. When my daughter Rachel was very small she named her after the Peter Pan fairy and she had to have a bell round her neck being a ferocious hunter. The new cat, Smiffy, has the habit of sleeping with his legs stuck straight up in the air lying on his back and is in endless disagreement with Fluffy. There is no indication they are going to get on. We have a policy of no appeasement. I suppose it's not unlike political life, but I hope certain people are going to be more receptive. Cats, of course, are totally undemocratic and calculating anarchists and no politician should try to learn anything from a cat. It doesn't stop you liking them though.



COOL CAT

David Bellamy

We went skiing one winter and our Siamese, Pussy Foot, who is very humanophilic gets very cross if we go away. He is a phenomenal character and loves to be dressed up in the children's dolls clothes. He took off in a huff that winter with four other cats who spend the whole time outside and when we came back, instead of a Seal Point Siamese we found he was jet black, which is very interesting. The colouration in these sorts of cats is due to an enzyme which is thermolabile. If they encounter low temperatures they turn dark all over, and it was a very cold winter. Cats are tremendously important in the human social chain and I know certain people who relate to their cats more than most other human beings. It is so nice for me to look out and see the ones who live in the garden, Peregrine, Prunes, Pluto and Pipkin, sitting on my car. They also do a good job keeping down the rats. I've thought a lot about cats recently as I put myself in a mouse's place for 2 1/2 years for a book I wrote.



LADIES' MAN

Miss Jane Watson

I have been on the railways for 42 years and Tiddles has been with me in the ladies' lavatory at Paddington for nearly 13. He is a very big cat, some say the biggest, and sleeps in a large dog basket which he has

decorated at Christmas and for all the Royal occasions such as a birthday or wedding. He was a wee little kitten when he came, but then he started to grow and it now costs about £15 a week to keep him. He eats rabbit and chicken and steak and people who use the lavatory put money in a saucer. He used to go for a walk on the platform, but these days he cannot manage the stairs except to waddle down them. At

Christmas he comes to visit my flat and my two cats, Birdie and Sparkie, keep well out of his way. He likes to rule the roost. He never has any girlfriends. He does not put up with that nonsense. He has just been interviewed by a South African magazine and gets fan mail from all over the world. Tiddles is affectionate to me and like his mum he's a member of the NUR.

FLAVIA CORKSCREW'S GOOD FOOD GUIDE

GERARD MANLY HAS LURED FLAVIA TO THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL.....



...We'll need to get a taxi to the town centre. Are you a taxi?



I suppose we must enter into the spirit of the thing.



Does one tip performance art?



Look at me Flavia! We haven't even got there yet, and I feel an absolute sideshow!



Contrary to appearances, Flavia is not a cat. This is the unofficial edition.

No, I'm performing art.

I'm going to drive you round in tight circles singing excerpts from Don Giovanni and flicking strawberry mousse about. That's the basic performance.

No, it tips itself on you.

The word is FRINGE EVENT Gerard.

THE TIMES DIARY

Greene mantle

Graham Greene has written one of his rare forewords, to *Bridging the Gulf*, the autobiography of Canon John Roger Fox, published by the One of England's smallest publishers, The Amate Press, of Oxford. Greene accounts how he enlisted Fox's help in the 1950s to assist a young Chinese whose wife had been refused a visa to live with him in Singapore. Greene writes: "I telephoned at once to Father Fox. 'Will you come with me in the morning and storm the police station?' He took the request as calmly and naturally as if it had been an invitation to lunch. An army sentry tried to stop us entering... but Father Fox soon put paid to him, and after some argument with an unpleasant sergeant we reached the Commissioner's office and the young bride got her visa." Fox comments: "I did not like the idea of 'storming' the police bureau and I'm glad to learn that I did not show it. He also recalls that afterwards he tried to help Greene get a visa to the United States for himself, but in that attempt he did not succeed."

Fi on them

This is Esperanto Week and to celebrate the Esperanto Parliamentary Group, which claims to be the largest non-political lobby at Westminster, cries "Fi!" on 78 MPs blacklisted because they are opposed to the use of an international language. "Fi!" is Esperanto for "Shame!" and more likely to be adopted, I should say, than is "Resist!" as a substitute for "Resign!" or "Senseless!" for "Rubbish!" The Esperanto Group counts on the support of 122 MPs from five parties, but the 78 who are said to think it is all "frenezia" (bonkers) include, I note, Edward Heath. Those who have heard him speak French may wonder why.

Secrets

Late on Saturday afternoon a colleague telephoned the information service at Paddington for news of the Irish boat-train from Fishguard. "Sorry, we can't tell you anything," he was told. "We have heard rumours that it may be four or five hours late, but we suggest you ring Fishguard." He did so and, after listening to announcements about cheap excursions, ascertained that because of bad weather the ferry from Rosslare had been cancelled eight hours earlier. When he relayed the news to Paddington, the grateful supervisor said: "We know, but we're supposed to be an information service, but no one ever tells us anything."



Barry Fantoni

Going my way?

The *sherut* has come to London. In case you do not know, I should explain that a *sherut* is a shared taxi plying a fixed route, such as operates in Jerusalem and other cities. A north London firm now advertises a *sherut* to and from Heathrow from £7.50, and to and from Luton airport from £10. I am assured, though, that its drivers do not follow the foreign custom of going along holding their fingers up to show how many places they still have to fill. In this country that could be misconstrued when there are just a couple of seats remaining.

● A violin made from wood gathered on First World War battle fields is to be heard in public for the first time on September 24. Its maker, Kenneth Popplewell, took most of the material from the Somme and Ypres and calls the instrument the *Violin of the Somme*. Popplewell will inaugurate it in the Back Double Concerto at St Martin's in the Fields and will continue playing the instrument for two years before auctioning it for war charities.

Try again

A Hertz executive has found reassuring evidence that his firm is No. 1 and Avis No. 2. It was standing in the Avis line at Heathrow. Several of the Avis cars looked familiar, and checking their registrations he found the Talbot Sambas had done their time in the Hertz fleet from December 1982 to June 1983. Hertz kept cars of that type only six months. I put the evidence to Avis who must be trying harder to come up with something to say, because that was a week ago.

Behind allegations

Thumbing a back number of *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, I discovered that last year the Pharmaceutical Society's law department alleged that a Bath pharmacist's advertisement "was unscientific in that it used the term 'antiseptic' creams for bites and burns". It was only during the inquiry that it was explained that there had been a typographical error. It should have read "bites and burns".

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the royal corgi. The breed entered the royal household of the Queen's parents in 1933, and has never been unrepresented since. Properly the Welsh corgi is a cattle dog, its advantage, I am told, being that it is so lowly a creature no self-respecting cow can get its horns over its back to harm one. Whether this explains the corgi's special place in the royal family's affections, I really cannot tell.

PHS

Sir Peter Parker, who leaves BR this week, talks to Peter Hennessy

The sage of the train



Sir Peter Parker: "Railways are a renaissance industry... BR is the best value for money in the world"

Listening to Sir Peter Parker, probably the most articulate nationalized industry chairman in the history of public enterprise, brings to mind George Orwell's description of England as "a family with the wrong members in control".

Why isn't he in politics? Sir Peter leaves British Rail at the end of the week to be succeeded by his chief executive, Mr Bob Reid. Instead of grappling with what he regards as the most romantic of British industries (though not in the sentimental smoke-in-the-sky sense) for seven years, why was he not giving Margaret Thatcher a run for her money at the despatch box?

"In theory I'm as apolitical as an amoeba," he said in a valedictory interview at BR's Euston headquarters. Then he proceeded to say what he would have done if he had been Prime Minister during the great 1973-74 industrial crisis: he would have set up an emergency council of industry to end the muddle of backstairs deals among unions, employers and government, an idea he floated in March in his Dimpleby Lecture, *Missing Our Connections*, and which he will continue to pursue as chairman of Rockware and an active member at the British Institute of Management.

Sir Peter clearly cannot abide Thatcherism. He is well known in the public sector as one of her most severe critics. His Dimpleby Lecture was a striking *cri de coeur* against the prevailing orthodoxy. But though almost free of public office, he would not be drawn beyond an admission that it was "certainly a *cri de coeur* for values which do not seem at the moment to be centre stage".

His Dimpleby Lecture was an eloquent reprise of a view consistently held over 20 years. But it did not dent the shell of Thatcherism. For the hard men and women of the 1980s it could be written off, as Professor Ralf Dahrendorf once dismissed social democracy, as "promising a better yesterday".

Thatcherites regard Sir Peter as a bit of a beached whale, stranded by the receding tide of corporatism. Though he loathes the corporatist label, calling it "boring", he is an unrepentant believer in Neddly - the National Economic Development Organisation - the forum for tripartite discussions between capital, labour and government.

In its 22-year life, Neddly has never been given a chance. Just because Leonardo da Vinci failed to fly, that did not prevent others from striving to become airborne, he said. Neddly re-

mains "a frail bridge across the abyss".

Sir Peter recognizes the need for austerity and knows that the world does not owe Britain a living. His critique of Thatcherism embraces the long term: "There is a crisis, of people feeling not wanted in our society. This is going to be a huge problem. It needs voice. At the moment, we are accepting it, biting on the bullet to be internationally competitive."

On a lower level, he is dismayed by the animus against the public sector in high places, though BR is pleased that Mrs Thatcher finally rode the metals during the election, making six trips from Victoria to Gatwick to rendezvous with her campaign plane. (As Secretary of State for Education in the early 1970s she had an unfortunate experience with aggrieved citizens upbraiding her in an open-plan compartment and had been reluctant to risk a repeat.)

Sir Peter is very funny about the Thatcher entourage. "The Tsarina's court," as he called it. Without naming Sir Alan Walters or Sir Alfred Sherman, he talked about people with "a tool kit of pride and prejudice" about the railway who don't themselves actually use it all that often.

But can Britain move into the twenty-first century with this great Victorian industry in its present shape? He was contemptuous of those who believe that British Rail should be helped to die quietly: "Railways are a renaissance industry everywhere in the world... BR is the

best value-for-money railway in the world."

Ironically for one who talks unashamedly about the "railway community", he may be best remembered for his time at BR as the man who bashed the unions, who bought productivity at the price of confrontation. But could the British Railways board have won that battle without the prevailing climate of Thatcherism and the new industrial realism it has brought?

Sir Peter rejected that thesis vehemently. The board's efficiency strategy had its origins before the 1979 general election. He did not need the Government to stiffen him during last year's union militancy. He had not met Mrs Thatcher once during the struggle. No minister had given him instructions: "It is easier to have a strike than to manage change without a strike. Once you get a strike, it's very crude."

Sir Peter said his failures on the railway outnumbered the successes. His greatest was that change had not come faster. "Hitting the buffers of the recession" had made matters difficult and caused projects like electrification and the Channel tunnel to be shelved.

Among the successes, which he insisted were the board's, not his, he listed productivity gains - 200 employees a week were leaving the railway and taxpayers were being saved £250m a year, a close relationship with the Department of Transport; the new Rail Council as a forum for discussion with the unions; the breaking up of the enterprise

into constituent businesses and bringing them closer to their markets; the realization throughout the railway community that they were not a monopoly and that they "had better sell with a smile".

Sir Peter was flummoxed only once during the conversation when he was asked, who was the real Peter Parker? He's been described as a great actor, old-fashioned corporatist, inspirational leader, waffling word-smith, and naive romantic who was mortified to find that not everyone shared his view of the railway as a family during the 1982 strikes.

He was furious at the suggestion that he was an actor playing a role (he has not trod the boards since he played Lear in New York in 1950). He certainly did not regard himself as a soft-centred manager devoted to the old ways. He had left the Labour Party more than 10 years ago because it never talked about efficiency and productivity.

How then would he like the obituarists to mark his passing? "I'd like to be remembered as a man who thought efficiency and happiness were reconcilable, as a man who noticed those he depended on and worked with".

The obituarists are likely to be tougher than that. Sir Peter is writing his memoirs, but perhaps the last chapter has yet to be written. Parker-watchers see him as natural SDP material. Maybe post-Thatcher Britain will provide a test-bed for his theories. Maybe they will, and prove, after all, to be more than a touching reprise of an old, sad song.

Colombia's own savage El Salvador

Bogota The day they shot dead a young campesino in front of the inhabitants of his tiny hamlet, population 55, a witness recalls how they first allowed him to urinate. They chuckled as he did so, then shot him three times through the skull at point-blank range, tossed his body into the river, and swaggered off into the hills saying they would return next day and expected to find the hamlet deserted.

They always use three bullets and they are always aimed at the head. With the first, hard liquor may make the aim steady, the struggling victim ducks and ends up bloody but still alive. Miracles have even been known after the second. So they always make sure with a third. There are no known miracles after the third shot which is not so much aimed at the victim as at witnesses whose belief in miracles is great but wearing thin these days as they take a lesson in terror.

Many bodies, often horribly mutilated and always with three bullet holes in the head, have been found in the fast-flowing waters of the River Magdalena in central Colombia which takes in large areas of three departments, extends over some 50,000 square kilometres - more than twice the size of El Salvador. In the scattered towns, villages and hamlets of Magdalena Medio live an estimated 800,000 people, while El Salvador -

Latin America's most densely populated country - has a population of 4.5 million.

"No, it is not a tiny El Salvador," says Colombian novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, the 1982 Nobel literature laureate, "but rather another, much bigger, than that of Central America, and even worse, being more confused and forgotten."

What alarms many Colombians is that the violence engulfing the region is all too reminiscent of the civil strife, aptly known as "la violencia", which convulsed the country after the 1948 assassination of a populist Liberal Party leader. It took ten years and a rare intervention by the military unit *la violencia*, an undeclared civil war between Liberals and Conservatives, finally blew itself out. Nobody has ever put an exact figure on it, but estimates of the number killed start at 300,000 and range as high as 450,000.

La violencia did not touch the cities, and because of poor communications in a country twice the size of France or large enough to swallow up Texas and California, it was several years before the extent of the senseless blood-letting was fully appreciated. Similarly today it has taken months for the full horror of what is happening in Magdalena Medio, only four hours by road from Bogota, to be understood in the capital.

Magdalena Medio was among the regions which suffered.

One day a band of heavily-armed strangers drove into his village in Jeeps and handed out crudely-written cards, accusing the inhabitants of being communists and giving them 24 hours to clear out. They got out fast, since a few miles away they had heard how all the menfolk in one hamlet had been shot after rejecting a similar ultimatum.

For some 20 years communist guerrillas of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (Spanish initials FARC), the country's oldest subversive group, have been active in the Magdalena Medio, justifying their actions as being in defence of the region's campesinos. At the same time they have regularly kidnapped wealthy landowners, whose freedom has been secured only after huge ransom payments, while also receiving protection money from other landowners as an insurance against kidnapping, cattle rustling, or the destruction of crops.

It seems that now the landowners are striking back with a vengeance. Worse, they have hired members of a much-feared right-wing assassination squad financed by "Colombian connections" drug racketeers in second city Medellin to do the dirty work.

This virtual private army has been staging a "clean-up" operation in Magdalena Medio and now claims there is not an *iguerridista* (leftist) in the region. Several Communist Party officials and members of a Maoist

revolution party, which rejects the armed struggle and to which President Belisario Betancur's son belongs, have been murdered. But most of the victims are the innocent.

In the region's main town, Puerto Berrio, population 25,000, the schools have been closed because all the teachers, automatically suspected of leftist sympathies, have fled. In the past seven months 150 "undesirables" - supposed leftists, pickpockets and homosexuals - have been murdered in the river port town where Justice Minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla recently declared: "A democratic state cannot tolerate citizens taking justice into their own hands." From the back of the hall a voice murmured: "Here he who talks goes straight to the cemetery."

Such is often the bizarre nature of politics in Colombia-style that Lara Bonilla, a man whose integrity has never been questioned before, finds himself at the centre of a scandal over "hot money" as drug trade profits are known. His accuser is a Medellin senator, a known racketeer and a founder of the death squad, who claims the justice minister once received a large campaign contribution of "hot money".

The drug trade and the death squad are both the subject of government inquiries and Betancur is expected to militate Magdalena Medio later this week. Ironically, Betancur has been the driving force behind the efforts of the Contradicta group - Colombia, Mexico, Panama and Venezuela - to achieve peace in El Salvador and elsewhere in Central America.

As a sympathetic Garcia Marquez notes: "It would not be just if after so many efforts to achieve peace in El Salvador... he could not manage it in this internal El Salvador which is devouring our very entrails."

Geoffrey Matthews

Venice, the first cultural ghetto

New words for old/Philip Howard

Wonderful city, streets full of water, please advise. It would be grand to go to Venice, now that the flocks of summer tourists are dwindling. But since we cannot afford the time and money for that, let us console ourselves and sharpen our nostalgia by reminding ourselves of Venice's linguistic gifts to the world.

Lagoon, of course, where, in the midst of the waters, free, indigent, and because of poor communications, they gradually coalesced into a republic. *Gondola*, derived from a word meaning "to rock". Shelley compared "gondolas", disturbingly, to moths of which a coffin might have been the chrysalis. And of *Lido*. The ground which Byron used to ride on. And do I don't know what beside on.

Arsenal is a Venetian invention, and was for several centuries the largest naval dockyard in the world. The conveyor belt system was invented at the Venetian Arsenal. The ships, when

completed, were towed past the windows of the storehouses, ten at a time, stores and equipment being added at each point until, by the time they reached the end of the dock, they were ready to sail. Peter Mundy visited it more than four-and-a-half centuries ago: "I went with a friend to see the famous Arsenal, a place of about two miles in compass, walled round, having but one entrance for a Galley to go in or out, there being within water for two or three hundred to ride aloft."

The *ghetto* is a Venetian word. Venetians always go on with them, and welcomed them aboard. At first the Jews lived on the Giudecca, having probably given it their name: The *Getta*, from *gettare*, "to cast". It was until the beginning of the sixteenth century the place where Venetians cast

their shot. In 1517 they moved their *Getta*, and handed its old site over to the Jews. In course of time it became the *ghetto*, and its name spread around the world. Venetians find it as bizarre that there should be *ghettos*, say, in Poland, as that there should be a *Lido* in Hyde Park.

The *casino*, in which loonies lose their money, is a Venetian invention. It means "a little house", the diminutive of *casa*, and it originally came into English to mean a public room for social meetings, with socialites being socialites, the distinct probability of a little flutter. The *sequin*, which ball-room dancers apparently stitch in thousands onto their ballooning dresses, is derived from the Venetian gold coin called a *zecchino*. The *gazette*, a somewhat old-fashioned name for a news-sheet,

though it survives in certain names of publications and in *gazetteer*, comes from the *gazetta*, a smaller and less valuable Venetian coin. The original source was the Venetian phrase *una gazetta de la novita*, as it were "a ha'porth of news", because the news-sheet was sold for a *gazetta*.

You may not be able to go to Venice this year. But you cannot get away from her in the language. Of course, not everybody shares our admiration for Venice. "Old and in general ill built houses, ruined pictures, and stinking ditches dignified with the pompous denomination of Canals; a fine built bridge, spoilt by two Rows of houses upon it, and a large square decorated with the worst Architecture I ever yet saw, such are the colours I should employ in my portrait of Venice." Edward Gibbon, shame on you, Sir. A word in Your Ear, by Philip Howard has just been published by Hamish Hamilton, £7.50.

Gerald Kaufman

Concorde: slowing, but the idea could still take off

Until it was dwarfed by the abominable destruction of the Korean jumbo jet, the big civil aviation story of the week was British Airways' use of Concorde as a crowd-puller in its war of the shuttle routes with British Midland. This degradation of Concorde to a sideshow attraction - the equivalent of using a Derby winner to carry Lady Godiva to county fairs - marks the latest stage in the collapse of the high hopes once vested in the aircraft.

Concorde was conceived more than 20 years ago as the plane of the future, the prodigy that would whizz passengers around the world at more than twice the speed of sound. Yet in late 1983 there are only 12 Concordes in use, operated by two national airlines which were captive clients. Air France, once highly ambitious in its use of Concorde, has abandoned its service from Paris to Washington, Rio de Janeiro, Caracas and Mexico City, and now flies only to New York. British Airways includes Washington as well as New York on its scheduled timetables, but has scrapped the Bahrain route.

Though others expressed interest, only one other operator, Singapore Airlines, was ever involved in a Concorde service (jointly with British Airways), but flights to Singapore ended in 1980, less than two years after they began.

While BA and Air France both claim that their surviving Concorde services are profitable, the huge surpluses seem more the products of creative accountancy than net financial gains for the two airlines, saddled as they are with expensive, gas-guzzling planes that they would far rather be without. Yet Concorde remains the most glamorous commercial aircraft in the world. It is still gazed at with fascination whenever it goes, popular for joy-ride charters even when it is prevented from flying supersonically.

On one occasion when I travelled on the plane one of my fellow-passengers was an American astronaut who had actually walked on the moon, yet he was starry-eyed at being allowed to visit Concorde's flight-deck.

The trouble dogging Concorde throughout its history is that although it was conceived ahead of its time, it was out of date when it was finally brought into service. The plane took far longer to develop than planned. Intended to enter service in 1969, it did not make its maiden commercial flight until January 1976. At the time it was conceived it suited the commercial circumstances of the day. When at last it began carrying fare-paying passengers it was too noisy (though no noisier than its contemporaries, as I

was able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Coleman Carving in Washington in 1976), too small and its range was far too limited. Instead of being able to carry hundreds of passengers to Japan or Australia, it could barely make it across the Atlantic with a payload of 80.

By demonstrating that passengers could be carried supersonically, Concorde was a dazzling and unique technical success. TU 144, the Russian counterpart, crashed humiliatingly at the 1973 Paris Air Show, and when last heard of had been relegated to carrying freight. Yet Concorde is undeniably an object commercial failure. Production ceased long ago - indeed it was I who put a stop to it. When I asked my colleagues in the Labour government to allow an inexpensive study for a new supersonic airliner, they turned me down flat.

I believe this was one of the few mistaken decisions made by that Labour government. There is a widely accepted view that the unsuccessful Concorde experiment rules out commercial supersonic flight. My own opinion is that supersonic flying having been invented, not only cannot be discredited but ought not to be

The requirements of a new-generation supersonic airliner are attainable - only effort is needed

disinvented. This summer I have flown many thousands of miles, across the Atlantic and across continents. As I have struggled over the 747 or DC10 dirty, tired and jet-lagged, I have longed for the speed and convenience of Concorde. Countless other bedraggled, weary passengers would probably value it just as much.

All the requirements of a new generation supersonic airliner - greater size, greater range, quieter engine - are attainable; only the effort and determination to put them together are necessary. Costs, of course, would determine the feasibility of the project. That is why I believe that all the main western countries - the United States, Japan and West Germany as well as France and Britain - should unite to finance the necessary study.

Anyone who wants to have a look at a Concorde can see a prototype at the aircraft museum at Yeovilton. Supersonic flight, however, is too important and too potentially beneficial to be relegated to a museum, or to stunts like huckstering the Glasgow shuttle.

The author is Labour MP for Manchester, Gorton.

Ann Sofer

The bungling burglar and the TUC

As the TUC delegates gather for their conference in Blackpool this week, what is their mood and where do they think their movement is going? Many, perhaps most, will be weary and occupied with the forthcoming battles between right and left, and the bartering and counting of block votes in the Labour party leadership and deputy leadership elections. Others will be preoccupied with devising careful and suitably ambiguous wording to enable the conference to edge its way round several dangerous corners and stay in one piece.

But I hope that at least a few are filled with a bitter sadness: sadness that their great movement should have sunk to its present weakened state. For, when all is said and done, and all the tales of striking gravediggers and rule-book officiousness have been squeezed dry for every drop of anti-union sentiment they are worth, it is - or at least has been - a great movement, with the proud history of courage and unsung heroes in the fight for justice.

This year - of all years, with growing poverty, threats to living standards, the floundering businesses on all sides - the conference is forced to spend its time reviewing its own constitutional arrangements and political relations with ships. There will also be many discussions about discussions. Should we talk to Tebbit or not? Should we even discuss the proposals for trade union democracy? Can there be any union or whisper of change in our relationship with the Labour Party?

Probably, as before, the answer will be dominated by defensiveness, conservatism (with a small "c") and bitter in-fighting. Let us hope, however, that this might be the beginning of a constructive exercise in self-analysis, and not just a repeat of the old failed self-justifications.

Norman Tebbit will certainly follow the conference as avidly as everyone. He is playing an interesting game with the unions. The original policy of the 1979 Conservative administration was a straightforward union-bashing one. It landed them with an Act curtailing union powers which may be acceptable to public opinion in theory, but which could be a severe embarrassment to the Government if put to the test.

Mr Tebbit seems to have turned his back on that approach, and switched to a wholly different approach, saying that what is wrong with the unions is not their powers but their lack of internal accountability. "Give the unions back to their members," he has cried. The public may have been startled at the implication - from a Conservative minister - that the unions were a possession worth having in anybody's hands, and sceptical about this sudden zeal for democracy.

What probably only a few people have realized is that the proposals, ringing slogan and all, are an act of unblinking plagiarism from the SDP's 1982 Green and White Papers on trade union reform. But like a bungling burglar, stealing only half a custom-built stereo set, Mr Tebbit left behind those parts of the proposals that would have provided a convincing balance.

He has nothing to suggest about industrial democracy, strengthening union efficiency, bringing in sensible

procedures for union claims for recognition, breaking down class barriers between white and blue-collar workers. And, to their shame and discredit, the TUC has little to say on these subjects either.

But now there has been a further strange development in Mr Tebbit's strategy. Whereas the Government's Green Paper proposed a democratic reform of union structures which, unbalanced though it was, was direct and radical - postal balloting for all union executives and general secretaries, and the replacement of "contracting out" with "contracting in" to the political levy - the White Paper that now follows is inexplicably fudged. The postal ballot has gone. Non-voting general secretaries are no longer to be subject to democratic procedures, and the political levy is to be discussed.

What has softened the flint-like Secretary of State for Employment? Can it be that the shafts of the *New Socialist* editor Mr James Curran, who pointed out that the sort of internal democracy Mr Tebbit is forcing on the unions is far from being practised by the Conservative Party, have gone home? Or has some secret deal been struck, whereby the Government would only press such reforms as would leave the present union office-holders in secure possession?

Tempting though these explanations are, there is another more plausible one. It may have finally occurred to Mr Tebbit that a really thoroughgoing reform of the unions is one that has unshaken them from the dying Labour Party and gave them leaders with a true popular mandate - might actually produce a union movement that was more popular, capable, and threatening to the Conservative view of the world than the present TUC. It might actually start a new, dying action on that package of proposals Mr Tebbit left behind when he plundered the SDP policy papers.

Are there any delegates at Blackpool dreaming of what might have been? Of what would happen if the TUC were, by a miracle, to say to Norman Tebbit: "Yes, of course we welcome more democracy. If you'll pay, we'll certainly have secret postal ballots for our executive elections. And we won't quarrel about the political levy: let's change to contracting-in if it is going to be such an issue. That's agreed. But now for the rest of the agenda: What about some real industrial democracy - from the employers as well as the unions? What about even-handed restrictions on company political donations? What about practical government help to strengthen union structures and organization?"

Imagine the effect. The ground cut from under Mr Tebbit's feet, the need for some quick defensive thinking in the CBI and the Conservative Party, and - most important - an immediate improvement in the unions' public image. And it is about time. They have made it too easy for too long for the Government to lay all the blame for the country's parlous economic state at the feet of the workers.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for Camden, St Pancras, North.

مكذأ من رلامل



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BE FIRM, BE SCEPTICAL

If any good can come from last week's criminal destruction of a South Korean airliner by Soviet fighters, it must take the form of a clearer understanding in the West of the nature of the Soviet system. This callous regime, which shoots first and asks questions afterwards, has served a timely reminder on the members of the Atlantic Alliance that if they do not hang together they may be hanged separately.

That is not a reason for abandoning the talks on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF), which are about to resume in Geneva. It is a reason for approaching them with firmness, and for examining every Soviet proposal with caution, not to say scepticism.

The latest public intervention by Mr Andropov is more in the nature of a clarification than a new proposal. He was already on record as offering to reduce the Soviet panoply of intermediate missiles in Europe to parity with the existing 162 British and French missiles, if the United States would agree to abandon completely its proposed deployment of cruise missiles and Pershing 2s.

One of the things NATO did not like about that proposal was that it did not make clear what would happen to the Soviet missiles once removed. Little would be gained if they were deployed against other allies of the United States in Asia, or simply removed behind the Urals ready to be redeployed at a moment's notice.

Mr Andropov has removed that objection by promising that all Soviet missiles withdrawn under a new treaty would be destroyed. So far so good, but that does not remove the other

Western objection, which is that the British and French missiles are not intermediate but strategic, since they form independent national deterrent forces, and that parity between 162 intermediate Russian missiles in Europe and no American ones is not parity at all.

But that is what Mr Andropov is still proposing, and he is still threatening that the introduction of any American weapons at all will compel Moscow to take "appropriate counter measures". It is this more negative aspect of his *Pravda* interview which has plunged Washington into gloom and caused many to write off the concession on "liquidating" SS20s as a throw away line for public consumption. As the Russians still insist on concessions which they know to be unattainable, the conclusion must be, it is said, that they are not particularly concerned whether they reach an agreement or not.

Those who have been close to the negotiations argue that the Russians have become more, not less, intransigent since Mr Andropov's accession. He is now being blamed even for the collapse of the "Walk in the Woods" formula worked out by the chief American and Soviet negotiators. It was Mr Brezhnev who inspired the initiative but his successor, working behind the scenes, who killed it off.

The great Western fear is that the Soviet Union will wait until deployment of the Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles has begun in December and will then renew its call for a moratorium. Some of NATO's less committed members might then echo the call, arguing that the Alliance had fulfilled the broad objective of its 1979 decision by stationing new

missiles in Europe. It had done enough to demonstrate its political will - surely the time had now come to sign an agreement? As a result NATO would be left with a huge INF imbalance and badly wavering ranks.

That sort of wavering must be resisted. In fact, while failure to secure an agreement on the "zero option" (no Soviet and no American intermediate missiles in Europe) would be regrettable, it will not be an unmitigated disaster. That proposal was a concession by the West, and if the Russians persist in turning it down they will in one sense be doing us a favour, since there is an argument for stationing the new American missiles in Europe whether or not the SS20s are there - to fill a gap in the spectrum of Western deterrence and to make absolutely unmistakable the American determination to defend Western Europe against Soviet attack.

Of course it would be preferable to avoid the deployment of such weapons on both sides, since both already have the capacity to destroy each other's population many times over with strategic weapons. But a continuing arms race with all its dangers is better than accepting an imbalance which would leave us at the mercy of the cold-blooded murderers of Sakhalin.

We need not yet give up hope of an agreement: the Americans are still waiting for a more detailed Soviet reply to their "interim" proposals, and meanwhile are reviewing a possible new initiative of their own. But realism obliges one to admit that there is as yet no sign of a breakthrough, and to prepare to face the consequences without flinching.

INDIGESTIBLE ISLAM

Last week immigration policy was at the centre of political debate in both France and West Germany. The French left-wing Government announced tough measures against illegal immigrants, while in West Berlin the suicide of a Turkish would-be immigrant led to calls for the resignation of the right-wing federal interior minister, Herr Friedrich Zimmermann.

The immediate issue in the West German case is one of political asylum versus extradition. The protagonist in the case, Mr Kemal Altun, had asked for asylum, and the relevant office of the federal government had decided to grant it, but Herr Zimmermann had challenged this decision, arguing that Mr Altun, regarded by the Turkish Government as a terrorist, should be deported to Turkey "in the interests of good cooperation with Turkey in the field of police-work".

That argument is not necessarily disingenuous. Both Turkey and West Germany have, or have had, a terrorist problem and it is on the face of it reasonable that they should wish to cooperate in the anti-terrorist struggle. The trouble is that the Turkish Government has a very much broader definition of a "terrorist" than any West European country, and at present allows much less political freedom, so that the distinction between "terrorist" and bona fide political refugee from Turkey is not always easy to draw.

No doubt the West German police are glad of help from their Turkish colleagues in keeping an eye on potential Turkish terrorists in West Germany, but it is probable that Herr Zimmermann attaches more importance to Turkish cooperation in attempts to limit Turkish immigration to West Germany than he does to cooperation in police-work proper. Moreover, his desire to restrict the right of asylum in West Germany stems largely from the fact that this right has in the past been extensively abused by immigrants whose real motives are economic - though this was certainly not the case with Mr Altun.

Thus the underlying issue is indeed the size of West Germany's immigrant community, in France too concern over this

problem has led, among other responses, to calls for a much more restrictive application of the right of asylum - notably from M. Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader and mayor of Paris. But asylum-seekers are not the main problem in either country.

The measures announced in Paris on Wednesday, like Herr Zimmermann's visit to Ankara in July, are directed primarily to securing the cooperation of countries of origin - in the French case Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia - in preventing illegal immigration. The French Government has also accepted, albeit reluctantly, the established West German practice of random "aid" frequent identity checks on immigrants, leading to the summary expulsion of those whose papers are not in order. Inevitably such checks are inflicted mainly on those who "look foreign", and thus contribute to the legal immigrant community's already acute sense of being a persecuted minority.

France is a country with a long tradition of successfully absorbing immigrants. Germany is not, but has come to terms reasonably well with the Italian, Spanish and Greek communities now living in its midst. In both countries, it is the presence of a massive community of Islamic culture which is proving particularly indigestible. Frankly racist attitudes are becoming almost the norm towards Turks east of the Rhine, and towards Arabs (essentially North Africans) west of it.

In West Germany there are 4.7 million "foreigners" - more than seven per cent of the population - of whom 1.7 million are of Turkish origin. In France there are 4.5 million foreigners (over eight per cent), and an estimated 2.6 million from French citizens, are "persons of North African culture", not including the clandestine immigrants whom the Government is now trying to round up and deport.

In both countries fundamentalist Islamic groups suppressed by their home governments, are exploiting the relatively free and plural nature of West European society, as well as the alienation and disorientation felt by many of the immigrants, to try to

impose on the immigrant communities a totalitarian and intolerant world view, with the result that the most well-meaning attempts by the French and Germans to assimilate, emancipate or simply educate the immigrants sometimes encounter a discouragingly hostile response.

It is a very old problem in a new form. Should the liberal Western state insist on dealing only with individual citizens, freeing them from the tyranny of guild or sect (Rousseau), or should it recognize and cherish organic sub-loyalties and particularist identities as necessary components of a free society (Burke, Tocqueville)? To put it another way, where should one's respect for the traditional culture of an immigrant community stop? Short of tolerating female circumcision or polygamy, most of us would say, but beyond, perhaps, arranging shifts and holidays so that pious Muslim workers can say their prayers at the correct time, and go on the hajj. In between are vast grey areas: enforcing sexual segregation in state schools, putting up with nightly revels next door during Ramadan, withholding French or German literacy classes from women whose husbands object, and so on.

Most of these problems are familiar to us in Britain. All the major West European countries owe their postwar prosperity in part to immigrant labour, and none of them is actually prepared to do without foreigners in many jobs even in these times of recession. All have to accept that their "guestworkers" are mostly here to stay, and for a time at least will increase proportionally to the rest of society, thanks to a higher birthrate partly related to that indigestible cultural identity, but in large part due to an age structure which also makes the immigrant population a net contributor to the French social security system. (Those past working and child-bearing are left at home.)

All West European peoples are bound to try to prevent more immigrants from coming in. All have not just a duty but an obvious interest to treat those already here with humanity and respect. A compromise between assimilation and identity can be found. But it will take time.

though health issues frequently appear on the agenda no doctors ever come.

Concerned by the extreme isolation in which it seemed to us, the doctors were working, the group decided to discuss how we could narrow the gap between ourselves and the doctors. I wrote personally to the 45 doctors of our area to invite them to the next meeting. One doctor came. Two apologised. None of the others replied.

I assumed our area was exceptional and read the following in Sir Douglas Black's report, *Inequalities in Health* (Penguin, 1982, p.152): "We were very concerned about the standard of GP service in some poor areas with high mortality. There are single-handed general practitioners who live at considerable distance from the areas in which their patients reside, have little knowledge of or interest in local culture - which leads them to prescribe or otherwise treat patients inappropriately - who rely for a disproportionately large part of the year, the week or the day on the deputizing services, and take little or no interest in the possibilities of new health centres, a group practice or other forms of collaboration among and between health service and social service professional personnel."

There may be a renaissance at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, but it has yet to arrive in Tottenham, or I suspect, the inner city in general.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS BRADBURY.
Holy Trinity Vicarage,
High Cross,
Hitchin, Herts.
SG4 7JN.
August 29.

Call for a new building structure

From Professor A. Kennaway
Sir, You report today (August 29) on yet another series of building failures, this time apparently caused by corrosion of the reinforcement in concrete.

In spite of decades of education of architects, civil and structural engineers and of myriads of other specialists and also of dedicated efforts to improve and set standards, buildings continue to exhibit faults of a serious nature. Many are apparent with traditional materials and methods. The use of modern materials is also a source of hazard, especially when misused.

Perhaps the very existence of fragmented education, institutions and organisation of the industry contributes to these faults, many of which are due to failure to understand the behaviour of materials and components in the environment of application as well as of their interaction.

Should we not reconsider an old idea of educating architects and engineers and technologists destined for the construction industry together? Perhaps, too, some of the professional institutions could merge?

The practice of the industry could take more steps toward a unified operation. Subcontractors need more competent, educated people, to work together more closely and to be integrated well. The best results are produced by integrated contractors with every discipline in their employ and which are run by good project managers.

Few architects are good at project management; that needs to be taught explicitly, not left to be picked up anyhow.

Yours faithfully,
A. KENNAWAY, Professor,
Kempnall College of Science and Technology,
Department of Mechanical Engineering,
Exhibition Road, SW7,
August 29.

The Soviet challenge

From Mr Michael Cullis
Sir, George Ignatieff's letter of August 25 makes it seem longer than 20 years since he was Canadian representative to NATO.

While he is, of course, right enough in urging increased Russian studies in Western universities, why should it apparently be assumed that these must lead to greater sympathy and cooperation with the Soviet regime?

As to what he mildly describes as the "problem of nationalist feelings among Soviet ethnic minorities", how does he see Western "cooperation" conducting to resolve this?

The simple, and ultimately sole, answer is for the Soviet Union to give nations like the Baltic states back their liberty. Mr Ignatieff also seems to misinterpret the kind of cooperation envisaged in the NATO Charter, which was concerned to promote non-military cooperation between members of the Alliance, not with the Soviet adversary.

It may indeed be that Mr Ignatieff is only seeking to make similar points to Lord Carrington in his admirable *NATO Review* article (summarised in your issue of August 29) but, if so, he has introduced a certain confusion into the argument.

Yours etc,
MICHAEL CULLIS,
County End,
Bushey Heath,
Hertfordshire,
August 29.

Wages by cheque

From Mr J. Mass
Sir, There have been 1,066 receiver-ships in the first six months of this year.

What happens when wages are paid on Friday by cheque, the employer goes broke on Saturday and the cheque bounces when presented to the bank on Monday?

1. Does the worker whistle for his wages?
2. Does he secure the payment through the insolvency provisions of the Redundancy Payments Fund?
3. Or does he line up with the other creditors?

Awaiting the outcome, he will sign on for a social security payment.

This apart, for workers without a bank account wages by cheque means a cut in pay, for the bank makes a charge for the service. A member reports a charge to him of £52 a year.

Yours faithfully,
JACK MOSS,
London District Secretary,
Furniture, Timber & Allied Trades Union,
NUFTO (London) Hall,
14 Jockey's Fields,
Holborn, WC1,
August 26.

'Grey area' of power

From Mr Paul S. Bagshaw
Sir, Peter Hennessy's article (August 30), misleadingly entitled "Order without armed force", reports Sir Edwin Bramall's views on military aid to the civil power. With better training and equipment since the 1981 riots the police have, he feels, effectively filled the "grey area" before the army are called out.

Yet the true "grey area" is not here but in the overlap of the police and Armed Forces. Joint Army and police actions (at Heathrow, in Tactical Aid Group training, in Northern Ireland), the increased arming and technical sophistication of the police have widened this penumbra.

US bishops and the nuclear issue

From The Bishop of Salisbury
Sir, Clifford Langley ("US bishops enter the 'bomb' debate", August 29) is surely right to welcome the pastoral letter of the US Roman Catholic bishops. "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and our Response", as "impressive and, in its own context, likely to be epoch-making". Moreover, this is, as he points out, largely because it was publicly debated and thrice revised before being issued in final form.

By contrast, *The Church and the Bomb* was indeed just one input to a wider public debate to which other churches in this country have also contributed. It would be a help to many Christians if, on the basis of the work already done (including the American statement) and of the discussion evolved, a shorter agreed ecumenical document could be produced by all the British churches concerned.

Your readers may, however, be misled by Mr Langley's article on two central issues. First, he makes no mention of the crucial recommendation by the US bishops (para 204) of "negotiations to halt the testing, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons systems" - in other words, a bilateral or multilateral "freeze". This is, in fact, the objective on which the peace movement in this country has united and which enjoys wide support in the USA. A comprehensive test ban treaty was one of the recommendations of *The Church and the Bomb*.

Secondly, the US bishops do commend "carefully chosen limited steps" in unilateral disarmament, "seeking to elicit a comparable step from the Soviet Union" (para 205). This again is precisely the philosophy of *The Church and the Bomb*, though our proposals for such unilateral steps were more radical

and have not found majority support.

Finally, the US bishops (1) rule out all use of nuclear weapons against population centres (para 147-8); (2) reject any "first use" (para 150-156); and (3) express profound scepticism about the possibility of "limited" nuclear exchange (para 157-161). They conclude that "the first imperative is to prevent any use of nuclear weapons".

It is against this background that their acceptance of deterrence is to be evaluated. Their position is clear (para 173-176). It is that of Pope John Paul II given in two pronouncements last year: deterrence based on balance, certainly not as an end in itself but as a step on the way towards a progressive disarmament may still be judged morally acceptable; and "the logic of nuclear deterrence cannot be considered a final goal or an appropriate and secure means for safeguarding international peace".

The message of the US bishops and that of *The Church and the Bomb* are basically one and the same. The use of nuclear weapons is morally unacceptable. These weapons must go. "Deterrence" is justifiable but only as a temporary holding operation on the way to disarmament. (To say that *The Church and the Bomb* declared all nuclear deterrence "forbidden" in the present situation is simply untrue.)

Any government, therefore, not urgently putting maximum thought and effort into disarmament as a top priority is morally at fault in its possession of nuclear weapons.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SARUM,
South Canonry,
71 The Close, Salisbury,
September 1.

Moral indignation of poverty lobby

From the General Secretary of the British Association of Social Workers.

Sir, As part of the poverty lobby referred to by David Walker (feature, August 25) the noise to which we are contributing is for sufficient public expenditure on the poor as opposed to "extra", with the implication that already enough is being committed.

The poverty lobby will remain morally indignant where the propaganda of the right conveys the message that it is the fecklessness of the poor which is the target for action. The propensity for blaming the victim is always with us and seemingly more so in Mrs Thatcher's Britain. Yet, as last year's Government-sponsored Barclay Report on the Role and Tasks of Social Workers affirmed: "The social services contribution is seriously under-financed and requires a programme of planned growth until a plateau of basic provision is reached".

This needs to be coupled with that part of the MORI poll (not mentioned by Mr Walker) which uncovered widespread poverty of the old-fashioned, absolute kind. Cathy, therefore, has good reason to come for a handout - even skilful managers need basic resources to be successful - but the particular cupboard of many social services departments is looking increasingly bare.

Nineteen-sixty style social work ought not to differ from the 1980's form in that any competent social worker should form an assessment of the help needed through weighing the effects of environment and personality. Increasing self-reliance and the capacity of people to cope is the end we in social work share with the Prime Minister, but we differ markedly from her over the means.

However, if it really is the case that, as a society, we have less money available in order to spend our way out of the continuing problem of poverty, contrary to what Mr Walker says, we in social work have begun the serious business of thinking of new ways of combating the problem.

The America's Cup

From Mr John H. Wiley
Sir, The America's Cup, in the sad absence of the boat herself, is a symbol of American pre-eminence in a particular sphere, demonstrated at a time when the United States was a young nation.

I am unmoved by the thought that the trophies of Henley and Wimbledon regularly leave these shores, but if I were an American I should be in favour of an early amendment to the Constitution to ensure that the America's Cup would always remain the property of the United States.

North American genius produced the fast sailing ship. Every modern sailing boat owes something, in its hull or sails, to "America", just as sailing boats a hundred years hence will be the better for the efforts of the English, Australian, Dutch and Italian designers working on the challenge and Americans working on the defence.

Unfortunately, controversy over rules is boring. Endless elimination

rares are boring. The finer points of yacht ratings are boring. The America's Cup races have intrigued the British for a hundred and thirty years and long may they continue to do so.

Thanks to television, international sporting events are more varied and interesting than ever before. Now might be a good time to issue a challenge to a new race around the Isle of Wight. Such a race could be held at regular intervals, the size of boats could be restricted solely by overall length, the number of entries to one per country, with a maximum of six starters to each race.

A new event might allow some fun back into Rhode Island Sound - if fun was ever a strong element in the history of the America's Cup for anyone but the onlookers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN H. WILEY,
4 Grange Close,
Canwick,
Lincoln,
August 30.

Complaints and press freedom

From the Editor of The Observer
Sir, As a working editor one reads with wry amusement, tinged with exasperation, the various "remedies" proposed for the press. In today's *Times* (September 1), for example, a fellow editor evidently views with equanimity the idea of TUC-inspired "artificial restraint" upon national newspapers (including, presumably, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, *The Observer* and the *Financial Times*) as long as the *Newbury Weekly News* and similar publications are excluded from these controls on grounds of special virtue.

Then Lord Brinkshaw declares that "something must be done to abate the excesses of some sections of the press". It turns out, however, that he isn't referring to the section of the press over whose excesses he himself presided for so many years, but to the introduction of "fear of 'coercion' by which the NPA and the Press Council, rather than editors, would determine what readers should read."

Having recently been censured by the Press Council myself, I can vouch for the weight its judgments carry with serious journalists. But the first object of the Press Council, as stated in its articles of constitution, is "to preserve the established freedom of the press". That means defending the press as well as condemning its excesses.

The Press Council could only exercise the regulatory functions being wished upon it by abandoning that primary objective - and with it, the allegiance of editors, on which, in a free society, its effectiveness has to depend.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD TRELFOED, Editor,
The Observer,
8 St Andrews Hill, EC4,
September 1.

Teenage pregnancies

From Mrs P. D. Riches
Sir, Your report "Fewer teenagers pregnant" (August 16) has been drawn to my attention for comment since it contains some misleading conclusions. I should appreciate the use of your columns to correct these.

Your report states that the number of teenage girls with unwanted pregnancies has fallen and that abortions have only slightly increased.

Statistics from the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys reveal that the total number of births to 15-19 year olds dropped from 81,797 in 1970 to 61,036 in 1980. However, the rate of illegitimate pregnancies per 1,000 girls resident in England and Wales in the 15-19 age group rose from 20.7 in 1970 to 29 in 1980.

During the same period the rate of abortions in this age group almost doubled from 9.05 to 17.64, while in the under-16s the rate increased from 2.7 to 4.6.

There is overwhelming evidence that, contrary to what you might expect, the availability of contraception contributes to an increase in the abortion rate, giving the lie to those who say that sex education reduces unwanted teenage pregnancies.

Yours sincerely,
VALERIE RICHES,
National Hon Secretary,
The Responsible Society,
Wicken,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire,
August 26.

Loss of farmland

From Professor Robin Best
Sir, Your report (August 24) of my talk to the British Association correctly notes that the annual loss of farmland to urban growth has been reduced by some two-thirds since its peak in the 1930s. But the reasons for this are not stated.

The decline has come about largely by the careful operation of protective planning controls since the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act. In the past few years the dampening effects on development of the present recession have resulted in a further fall.

The danger now is that the recent weakening of planning constraints by the present Government, in conjunction with increased urban pressures as the economy improves, could quickly lead to a new upsurge in urban encroachment.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BEST,
Department of Environmental Studies and Countryside Planning,
Wye College (University of London),
Nr Ashford,
Kent,
August 26.

333 recurring

From Mr Paul Tempest
Sir, On no account should Sir Philip Goodhart (August 30) be encouraged to have us celebrate marriages, or anything else, of a third of a century.

It is bad enough, for most of us, trying to remember the same date each year for 20, 30 or more years. Random celebrations of a third, sixth, seventh, eighth or ninth of a century, occurring at different seasons of the year, would impose yet further strains on the institution of matrimony and set appalling precedents for the birthdays of indigents or sociable offspring.

As for a particular gem or mineral to mark a third of a century, I would suggest something radioactive (e.g. plutonium) or transparent (e.g. glass) to be selected unanimously by the Members of the Eccentrics.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL TEMPEST,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
August 30.

Body and mind

From the Reverend J. N. A. Bradbury
Sir, I am glad to learn from Professor Weatherall (August 29), that the doctors of tomorrow will be "increasingly aware of the pastoral aspects of their work and the importance of their patients as individuals, with personal and environmental problems".

When I first came to Tottenham four years ago I founded, with the United Reformed Church minister, a multi-agency group to meet every two months for interdisciplinary discussion of the local area's problems. The group has been well attended by social workers, community workers, teachers, the police, health visitors and others. But

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STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 705.8
FT 100: 79.45
FT All Shares: 49.23
Bargains: 20.646
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 99.57
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 97.32
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1216.45
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,183.11
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 950.54
Amsterdam: 148.7
Sydney: AO Index: 914.5
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 923.60
Brussels: General Index: 132.49
Paris: CAC Index: 133.1
Zurich: SCA General: 287.0

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.4955
Index 95.3
DM 4.0925
Fr 12.1150
Yen 369.25
Dollar
Index 129.5
DM 2.6955
NEW YORK CLOSE
Sterling \$1.5020
Dollar DM 2.6937
INTERNATIONAL
ECU: 564.784
SDR: 697.430

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9%
Finance houses base rate 10%
Discount market loans week fixed 9%
3 month interbank 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10%
3 month DM 8-1/2%
3 month Fr 15%-15%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 100%
ECB: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period July 6 to August 2, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY - Interim: Brown Boveri, Kent, EIS Group, Macfarlane Group (Chairman), Nationwide Leisure, Pentland Holdings, Finais: Don Brothers, Buis, Samuel Heath & Sons, InterEurope Technology Services, News International, Palmerston Investment Trust.
TOMORROW - Interim: J Beattie, Brammer, Exco International, IMI, Kode International, Moben & Pascock, Pensions, Provident Financial, Rickett & Cornhill, Robinson Brothers (Ryder Green) Sharpe & Fisher, Stewart Wrightson, Wadkin, Wilson (Connolly), Holdings, Finais: Cantors, Datastream, Harvey & Thomson, Land Investors, Old Court, Interim, Robinson, Ricardo Consulting Engineers.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

TODAY - Remore Atlantic, Tower Hotel, Chapel Street, Liverpool (noon).
TOMORROW - Althett, London Properties, Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall, SW1 (noon).
WEDNESDAY - Rothmans International, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (12.30pm); R. Kelvin Watson, Alan Lodge Hotel, Burton Road, Stockport, Cheshire (noon); Astra Industrial Group, Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham (4pm).
THURSDAY - Marston, Thompson & Evershed, Sharnhall Road, Burton on Trent (11.30); G.M. First (Holdings), Post House Hotel, Wakefield (11.45am); Hawden Group, Glasgow (noon); Birmingham Mint, Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Harborne Road, Birmingham (noon); Hampton Gold Mining Areas, Management House, Parker Street, WC2 (noon); Patterson Jenks, Castle House, 71-75 Desborough Road, High Wycombe (12.15pm); Unigate, Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W1 (noon); Burningham Group, Burningham House, 100 Whitechapel Road, E1 (12.15); NAT Group, Barley Wood, Winton, Avon (noon); Tex Abrasives, Hermes Works, Greenstead Road, Colechester, Essex (noon); H.P. Buisson Holdings, Green Dragon Hotel, Broad Street, Hereford (2.30pm).
FRIDAY - Electrocomponents, City Conference Centre, 78 Mark Lane, EC3 (noon); RFD Group, The Baltic Exchange, St Mary Axe, EC3 (noon); D.P. Bevan Holdings, The Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham (noon); Mitchell Somers, Parkers Hall, Little Trinity Lane, EC4 (noon); Voughall Carpets (Holdings), Hill Top Hotel, Youghall, County Cork (noon).

Mr Ronald Shuck, the former chairman of London & Liverpool Trust, the video company, yesterday announced details of his plans to re-launch Associated Telecommunications, a finance, office equipment and communications company. It will begin trading under its new name, Associated Telecommunications, on Thursday.

UK expansion 'will be one of world's lowest'

Britain's growth rate may be halved next year, City economists agree

By Michael Frost

Britain's economic recovery is faltering, so that growth in 1984 may only be half the roughly 2.5 per cent expected this year, according to new forecasts from City economists. Slower growth will make tax cuts next year unlikely and could lead to a new recession if corrective action is not taken, seven out of eight forecasts published today predict.

The forecasts from leading firms of stockbrokers, are remarkable for their agreed view that the British economy will be one of the world's slowest growing next year. One firm, Phillips & Drew, suggests that the Treasury will fail to obtain all the spending cuts it wants in the present round of departmental negotiations, leaving spending £1,000m higher than the desired £126,400m.

Only one firm, Griveaux Grant, differs from the consensus by arguing that the economy will grow by 3 per cent next year. But there is broad agreement that adhering to the medium-term financial strategy, the cornerstone of government policy, will become increasingly difficult and even counter-productive.

By contrast, the Treasury's existing forecast is that growth in the first half of 1984 will be much the same as during this year. But that forecast is being revised and the new version will form the basis of the Chancellor's autumn statement. In the light of the new City estimates, it is possible that the Government will reduce its forecast.

Expectations of slower growth

Forecasts in 1984

Forecaster	% growth	inflation
Griveaux Grant	3	6.3
Simon & Coates	1.5	6.7
Phillips & Drew	1.5-2	6.5
James Capel	1.4	6.4
Loring & Crunkshank	1.2	6.1
Wood Mackenzie	2.1	6
Capel-Cure		
Myers	1	6.3
De Zoete & Sevan	1-1.5	7

next year are mainly based on three assumptions: that the consumer boom will subside; that restructuring by industry has almost been completed; and that British exports have not gained sufficient competitiveness.

There is also widespread concern about the failure of British industry to meet the competition from imports to satisfy domestic demand. James Capel, for example, expects imports to increase by 3.8 per cent next year. Simon & Coates points out that domestic output of capital goods has scarcely changed since 1981, while imports have risen by half.

If this pattern persists, industrial production by the end of next year may be no higher than its peak in 1979. At this stage in an economic recovery output would normally be higher and rising.

The economists are agreed that the most powerful engine of growth in the recovery so far has been consumer demand. Slower inflation, improving real incomes and lower interest rates have

encouraged people to run down their savings and borrow more.

But the debt-to-income ratio has become unusually high and the savings ratio has fallen between the middle of last year to the middle of this by about 3 percentage points to 10 per cent. At the same time, inflation averaging 6 per cent or more next year, compared with under 5 per cent in 1983, will reduce real disposable incomes.

Most of the City analysts agree also that the turning point in the stock building cycle was passed in the first quarter of this year. James Capel argues that raw material costs will be inflated by the strength of the dollar, and that in any case stock control by companies is more efficient. It could be, the brokers say, that the British economy is moving towards structurally lower stocks.

BL merger plan put to TUC

By David Young

An internal report of the TUC suggests that BL should consider merging with one of the two American-owned carmakers in Britain, Ford or Vauxhall.

The report, which outlines three options for Britain's car industry, was prepared for the TUC's economic committee and will be presented to the new general council at its first meeting after its election at the TUC's conference in Blackpool this week.

The report says: "The TUC is aware that the UK motor industry has been reshaped many times in the past, and on one occasion has it been wholly successful. None the less, the

pressures on the industry require that another attempt should be made.

"The position of BL will be a key element in the total strategy and a number of options for reshaping BL's activities exist."

The first is to re-establish BL as a volume producer, but the TUC has already accepted that this would require new public investment at a time when the political climate favours privatization of BL's successful sectors.

The second option is that BL should link with Ford or Vauxhall. The object of this approach, which the TUC has understood to accept as being highly controversial within the

trade unions involved in the industry, would be to build up large scale production by specializing in certain models at individual plants.

The reports says that this option is much less attractive in terms of reducing the independence of the British industry, but a closer tie-up with one of the US companies would have less stringent trade policy implications.

The third option is that BL should enter a joint venture with a foreign mass producer which is not now involved in car building in Britain. The report suggests a tie-up with a Japanese company

Profits continue to tumble at Sime

By Michael Clark

The world recession is continuing to hit Sime Darby, the Malaysian conglomerate, where profits have taken a nosedive for the fourth year in succession.

Full-year figures to June 30 show pretax profits tumbling 47 per cent to \$M111.1m (\$31.7m) on turnover reduced from \$M2,727m to \$M2,172m. Sime lays much of the blame for the latest setback on its Tractors Malaysia Holdings subsidiary which reported its first trading loss of \$M10.9m against a pretax profit last time of \$M61.6m.

Apparently, the demand for prime products and support services in the logging industry failed to materialize in the second half. This was due to adverse weather, lower export prices and depressed demand for logs.

On the heavy equipment side, sales were hit by a build-up of stocks, which in turn hit margins and reduced operating profits.

The smaller businessman in Malaysia has also been hit by the recession, and as a result Sime has experienced an unusually high build-up of replacement orders of new and second-hand equipment.

Sime has now undertaken a programme of heavy rationalization in the tractor division to reduce overheads and workforce. Rising costs and the fall in the price of palm oil made a dent in the contribution from the plantations division. Pretax profits were more than \$M2m lower at \$M57.3m, despite higher yields.

Banks debate TKM aid

By Jeremy Warner

A meeting of Tozer Kemsley & Milbourne's 86 bankers will this week formally consider for the first time a £50m refinancing plan put forward by a consortium of shareholders in the troubled motor distribution and trading group.

If the plan is adopted by the bankers, who are being steered by a committee of seven chaired by National Westminster, up to £70m of the group's crippling £100m of debt will be wiped out.

The plan was drawn-up by a freelance corporate financier, Mr Murdoch Morrison, and envisages the subscription of up to £27m of new ordinary share capital by existing shareholders and outside investors and the conversion by the banks of up to £40m of their debt into convertible preference shares.

An agreement by the bankers to provide continuing support for TKM was hammered out earlier this year and expires next May.

Brazil rescue 'must involve state help'

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Western governments are expected to emerge as participants in a rescue package for the world's biggest debtor, Brazil, according to speculation in banking circles.

Brazil has had lengthy negotiations with the commercial banks and the International Monetary Fund aimed at securing the release of blocked loans and raising up to \$100m of new loans to see the country through to the end of 1984.

Commercial banks are working on the basis of providing up to \$60m of this. "It's not that Brazil could not use \$60m but \$60m is the maximum 'banking' believe 'is possible', one New York banker said.

However, banks are insisting that governments and official agencies provide the rest, and there are signs that some governments may be prepared to contribute short-term finance towards a package.

One possibility being floated in the United States is the conversion of US bank loans into government guaranteed credits.

Brazil, whose total debts are put at \$90bn, is expected to be top of the agenda at next week's Bank

for International Settlements meeting in Basle of central bank governors.

Any direct government finance is likely to be conditional on Brazil completing an agreement with the IMF on a new economic programme. Last week's sudden resignation of Brazil's central bank president, Senhor Carlos Lacerda, who believed the new IMF programme unrealistic, had raised doubts over when Brazil will sign a new letter of intent with the IMF.

However, Mr William Rhodes, of Citibank, the chief commercial bank negotiator, has said that a new agreement between Brazil and the IMF will be announced soon.

A meeting of Latin American debtor countries starts today in Caracas, Venezuela, to discuss the continent's debt problems.

Mexican bankers are to be compensated for the nationalization of the banks at the end of last year. Christopher Thomas writes from Mexico City. After months of haggling, the Government of President Miguel de la Madrid has agreed to pay the bankers in government bonds.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prudential seeks chief for Dragon

Prudential Assurance has asked GEC to supply a new chief executive for the ailing Dragon Data home computer group, which was rescued by a £2.5m cash injection last week.

The new man will be selected from the ranks of directors of GEC subsidiary companies and will be interviewed later today by Mr Ron Arus, chief investment manager for Prudential, which owns 42 per cent of Dragon. The new chief will replace Mr Tony Clarke, who resigned last week for personal reasons.

In the meantime, Mr Derek Morgan, of the Welsh Development Agency, has taken over running the company.

Last week's rescue package was launched after the company announced it had run into serious cash flow problems, mainly the result of over-estimating demand. Mettoy owns 15 per cent of the company after selling the bulk of its holdings to institutions earlier this year. Shares of Mettoy tumbled 8p to 8p on Friday on the news.

Trace, the electronic equipment group, which is floating off its US high-tech subsidiary, Goring Kerr, is offering 1.65 million shares in an offer for sale by tender at a minimum tender price of 200p a share. The offer is expected to raise about £3m for Trace and reduce its stake in Goring Kerr from 90 per cent to 62.5 per cent.

Barton Group is up against the clock to buy the John Collier and Richards Shops retail chain from Lord Hanson's Hanson Trust. So far Mr Ralph Halpern, chairman of Barton Group, has held out against paying the £100m demanded by Hanson. Lord Hanson has made it clear he wants the deal settled by the group's financial year-end on September 30 and still has several other buyers waiting in the wings. Barton has to clinch the deal by the end of the week to complete acquisition in time.

Mr Robert Maxwell, chairman of BPOC, said in a weekend television interview that despite market doubts he still has an even chance of winning his company's contested £18m bid for John Worthington, the games and packaging group. The office closes on Wednesday.

UK companies still face Argentine restrictions

By Our Banking Correspondent

British companies in Argentina are still being discriminated against by the Argentine authorities, according to Whitehall sources, although they are now being allowed to remit dividends from the country.

Last month British banks were, in effect, forced to delay signing a \$1.5bn international loan for Argentina because of pressure from the Government. It said it wanted evidence that Argentina was no longer blocking dividend payments. Once the International Monetary Fund formally confirmed that Argentina was allowing British companies to repatriate dividends, the government withdrew its objections.

British companies have confirmed that they have been allowed to take money out. But a spokesman for the Department of Trade and Industry said: "We understand it is operating on a case-by-case basis. We will be monitoring the situation closely."

Other restrictions, outside the remit of the IMF, remain in force. British companies are said to be denied access to public sector contracts. They also have to operate under an Argentine overseer and are forbidden to sell any local asset or property.

Britain lifted financial sanctions against Argentina last September and the government would like to see a resumption of normal trading relations. But Whitehall officials say there has been no positive response from Argentina.

Britain maintains a ban on imports from Argentina, imposed in April 1982. According to the Department of Trade and Industry, the only exceptions are new material and non-commercial imports.

Last month's political dispute over British bank participation in the Argentine loan is believed to have stemmed directly from intervention by Mrs Thatcher.

Whitehall launches £500m company

Ministry man turns oil chief

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Until last Thursday Mr Julian West, aged 33, was a high-flying civil servant at the Department of Energy. Today he begins his first full week in a new and unexpected role - running a new oil company with an estimated £500m of assets.

Mr West is one of two directors appointed to run Enterprise Oil, the unusual corporate vehicle which the Government has set up to own and manage the substantial North Sea oil interests owned - and only reluctantly released - by the British Gas Corporation.

The new company formally came into existence four days ago. It will operate as a state-owned but independent commercial concern until Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, decides how and when it should be privatized.

For Mr West, the launch of Enterprise Oil marks a distinct change of style and tempo. An economist by training and a civil servant for the last nine years, he has spent the last three years at

the heart of the corridors of power as private secretary to three successive Secretaries of State for Energy.

He says that it was only two weeks ago, after returning from holiday, that he learnt he was being seconded indefinitely as a full-time director of the new company. Last week he left his office in Millbank where the department operates, and moved to Enterprise Oil's first home - borrowed offices in Fenchurch Street in the City.

The other director appointed so far is Mr Peter Elwes, a director of Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank which has been advising the Government on the contentious privatization of British Gas's oil assets for the past three years.

The new company has a skeleton staff of 10 at the moment, backed up by outside consultants. The assets are here, Mr West said. "Now they have got to be turned into a viable company, and made attractive to future investors."

Although the company is not the technical operator of any of the North Sea oilfields in which it has stakes, it has to be represented on the operating committees.

No announcement has yet been made about the form or timing of privatization. Despite pressure to sell the assets piecemeal to other oil companies, Mr Walker is expected to opt for the flotation of the company as a single entity.

The most likely timing is in the first half of next year, although it appears to have been accepted in Whitehall that the sale might not be completed before the end of the current financial year, as the Treasury assumed in its budget plans last March.

Enterprise Oil has interests in five producing North Sea oilfields with a total of remaining recoverable reserves of about 175 million barrels of oil. Estimates of the likely proceeds of their privatization range between £350m and £500m.

City Editor's Comment

The key question at monetarism's heart

The idea that the American economy should act as a locomotive for the world, dragging the rest of us into forward motion, is anathema both to the Reagan Administration and to like-minded monetary economists elsewhere, who are more conscious of the need to fight inflation both worldwide and in each country. But somehow it has turned out that way.

The combination of a huge fiscal deficit and, in theory if not in practice, stout monetary aims, has led to remarkable short-term growth - 9.2 per cent annual rate in the second quarter of 1983 - that has powered lagging progress in Continental Europe and Japan and enhanced our own early but more modest efforts. But has it been too good to be true?

So far, all appears well, with US inflation lower even than our own and sufficiently modest for President Reagan to take credit for US price stability as a proximate cause of the strong dollar.

The idea that inflation and slump or stagnation are continuing alternatives has died the death both in our own election campaign and in the general economic argument. It needed an individualist with clout to revive it. Who better than Mr Milton Friedman, in many ways the architect of the US idea that, given monetary restraint, the budget deficit hardly mattered for inflation?

As ever there are no half measures with Mr Friedman. "Excessive monetary growth over the past year means that we are facing the near-certainty of an over-heated economy for the next few quarters at least, which will almost certainly mean a subsequent acceleration of inflation, probably in middle or late 1984," he writes in a *Wall Street Journal* column.

"Continuation of present levels of monetary growth promises disaster. A sharp reduction in monetary growth would mean reduced nominal GNP growth next year. Combined with the delayed impact on inflation of the recent monetary explosion, the result would be recession... there is no middle course that at this point will avoid both higher inflation and at least a decided slowing if not premature termination of expansion."

There can be no doubting that M1, the weekly basic money supply to which the markets and Mr Friedman pay most attention, was so far above targets that Mr Paul Volcker at the Federal Reserve Board was forced to abandon his projected growth range and set a new one, now being met, although dealers still have fears for the autumn.

The conventional view is that inflation will rise in the United States next year, but only modestly, to perhaps 5 per cent, still lower than the OECD average.

The real question, highly relevant here and at the heart of arguments about monetarism, is whether unduly high monetary growth in the early stages of recovery - what the technicians call falling velocity of circulation - is consistent with that elusive desirable, the switch to stage-two sustainable economic growth.

According to Mr Friedman, whose researches in this area are second to none, there is a cyclical fall in velocity of circulation in the downturn that should reverse when things improve. Experience here suggests that the credit and house purchase in the early stages of recovery simply need more money.

The Heath recovery showed this transition was hard to bridge. The denouement will determine whether the upturn will prove to be just another financial cycle or a longer-term economic recovery.

Fitch Lovell: a shorter menu means a better recipe for success

It won't have escaped your attention that one of the leading companies in the food industry is rather slimmer than it was last year.

Because Fitch Lovell has disposed of its retail and poultry interests - to emerge as a leaner, fitter company, strongly concentrated on its areas of greatest expertise in food manufacturing and distribution.

The results are appetising, to say the least. Because while overall Group profit rose in the 53 weeks to 30th April 1983 (compared with the previous 52 weeks) by 39%, the profit generated by the businesses that have been retained did even better, rising by no less than 66%.

The Group now contains some of the most efficient companies in the food industry.

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And it has a management team that's dedicated to consistent, year-on-year growth, based on a blend of established skills, innovative philosophies and proven success.

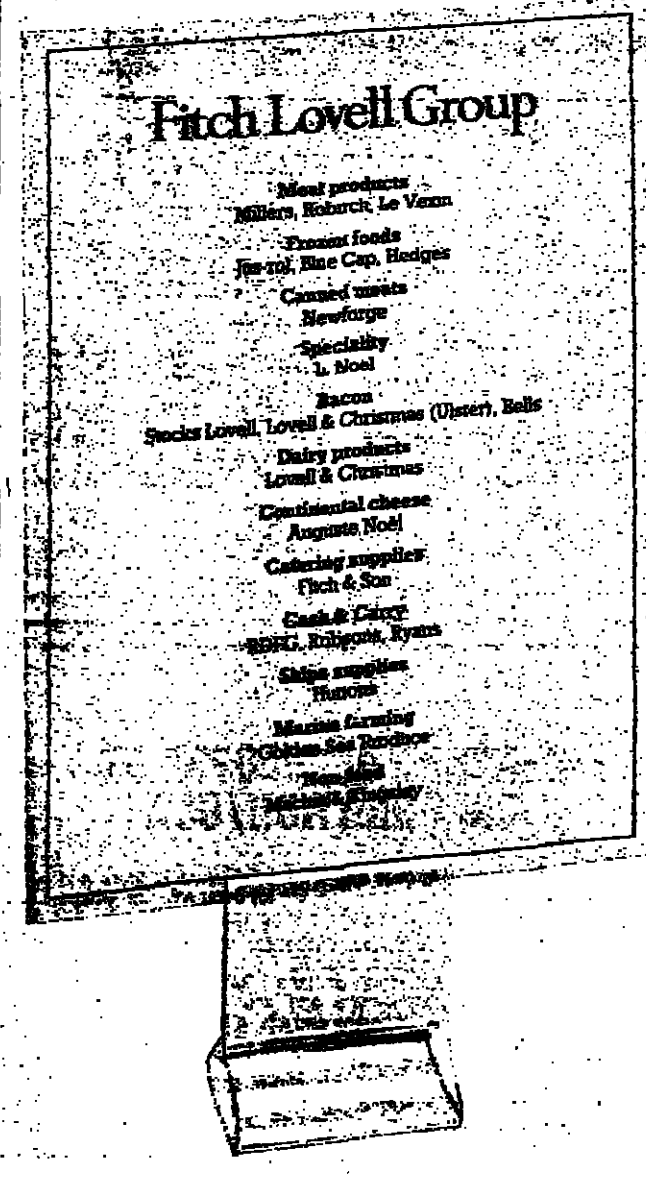
Bon appetit!

Fitch Lovell

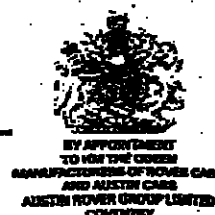
To the Secretary, Fitch Lovell PLC,
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Name _____

Address _____



AUSTIN ROVER



"The Maestro will become a milestone and benchmark in British Motoring History." D. Benson, Daily Express 1.3.83

"Equipped to be a world beater." Financial Times Headline 31.1.83

"The Maestro is the most innovative 'everyday' car since the Mini 23 years ago." Michael Kemp, Daily Mail 1.3.83

"From the way in which the Maestro comfortably comes top in no less than four of our five areas of assessment it can be nothing but the clear overall winner." What Car? June 1983

"Right through the car the engineering is excellent—often superb." Mel Nichols, Sunday Express Mag. 27.2.83

"...There is no other car in this class I prefer to the Maestro...It offers style and driving satisfaction...the epitome of low-cost enjoyable 1983 transport" Frederic Manby, Yorkshire Post 15.4.83

"Maestro a Winner. Success will save jobs." Daily Star Headline 2.3.83

"It's a car of which Austin can be proud—just watch it sell." Drive Magazine April '83

"It outshines the competition in style, economy, roominess and price and outstrips the field in advanced technology."

Car Choice April '83

"It's a winner all the way and it's the best of British"

Daily Express 1.3.83

"Magnificent"

The Sun 1.3.83

"The abiding impression received as one gets in a Maestro is of airy space...with adequate room for a 6ft driver and for a similar size passenger behind him."

Autocar 28.5.83

"It's a joy to drive"

Patrick Mennem, Daily Mirror 1.3.83

"The Austin Maestro is aptly named. It is a great composition of the latest advanced technology—and is going to play havoc with all its competitors. It beats them all on petrol economy, interior dimensions, equipment, innovative new features and price."

Leslie Driver, Sheffield Star 1.3.83

"A combination of performance and economy that the opposition are hard pressed to beat..."

Motor 9.4.83

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Test drive one of the 7 new Maestro models available now at your nearby Austin Rover dealer and you'll believe in miracles.



AUSTIN MAESTRO
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D.O.T. Figs: Maestro 1.3 HLE simulated urban cycle 43.0 MPG/6.6 L per 100 KM. Constant 56 MPH 60.5 MPG/4.7 L per 100 KM. Constant 75 MPH 41.5 MPG/6.8 L per 100 KM. Maestro 1.3 L simulated urban cycle 37.0 MPG/7.6 L per 100 KM. Constant 56 MPH 52.5 MPG/5.4 L per 100 KM. Constant 75 MPH 37.8 MPG/7.5 L per 100 KM.

مكتبة من الامم

RACING: RUNNERS AND RIDERS FOR TODAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Windsor

Draw advantage: high numbers best
2.45 POTENTIAL STAYERS' STAKES (2-y-o: £1,348; 6f) (8 runners)
 1 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 2 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 3 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 4 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 5 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 6 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 7 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10
 8 21214 KING OF CLUBS (P Merton) 15/10

3.15 BELMEAD HANDICAP (3-y-o: selling: £214; 6f) (16)
 1 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 3 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 4 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 5 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 6 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 7 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 8 01010 STAY (C) (P Merton) 15/10

3.45 RUSSELL HANDICAP (2-y-o: £1,291; 5f) (12)
 1 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 3 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 4 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 5 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 6 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 7 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 8 11140 STANLEY THE BARON (C) (P Merton) 15/10

Beverley

Draw advantage: high numbers best
2.15 SCARBOROUGH SPA HANDICAP (2-y-o: selling: £261; 1m) (10 runners)
 1 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 2 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 3 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 4 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 5 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 6 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 7 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7
 8 0300 LINDORF VICTOR G. Harnett 9-7

2.45 HORNSHE MERE HANDICAP (2.11.11: 1m) (20)
 1 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 2 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 3 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 4 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 5 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 6 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 7 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10
 8 1300 SILEY'S KNIGHT D. Chapman 7-10

3.15 WITNESS HANDICAP (2.20.55: 1m) (16)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 3 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 4 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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 7 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 8 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10

Nottingham

Draw advantage: high numbers best
2.30 FINAL STAKE STAKES (2.1.898: 1m 2f) (6 runners)
 1 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 3 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 4 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 5 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 6 1100 RED MINSTER (C) (P Merton) 15/10

3.05 OYSTERS HANDICAP (2.2.55: 1m 2f) (7)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 3 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 4 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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 7 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10

3.30 STRATHPEY HANDICAP (2.1.648: 1m 5f) (13)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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4.0 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
 2 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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4.30 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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4.50 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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5.0 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
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5.30 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
 1 0000 MOUNTAIN DAWN (C) (P Merton) 15/10
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6.0 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
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6.30 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
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7.0 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
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7.30 RADCLIFFE HANDICAP (2.1.77: 6f) (15)
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4.15 WINTER HILL STAKES (22.49: 1m 3f 150y) (6)
 1 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 2 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 3 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 4 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 5 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 6 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10

4.45 ROYAL HANDICAP (3-y-o: £1,871; 1m 2f 22y) (10)
 1 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 2 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 3 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 4 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 5 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 6 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 7 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 8 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10

5.15 BRACKNELL STAKES (22.49: 1m 3f 150y) (6)
 1 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 2 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 3 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 4 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 5 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10
 6 0001 LAFONTAINE (Mrs J. Bogg) 15/10

Windsor selections
 By Our Racing Staff
 2.45 King Of Clubs. 3.15 Return Match. 3.45 Who Knows The Game. 4.15 Looking For. 4.45 Vagrant Maid. 5.15 Myntina.
 By Our Newmarket Correspondent
 2.45 Block Of Granite. 3.15 Easy Star. 3.45 Gentle Gypsy. 4.15 Lafontaine. 4.45 Pontevicchio. 5.15 Gallant Buck.

Saturday's results

Haydock Park
 2.15 1. Buzzard (5-2). 2. Newmarket (5-2). 3. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 4. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 5. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 6. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 7. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 8. Vagrant Maid (5-2).

Kempton Park
 1.30 1. Buzzard (5-2). 2. Newmarket (5-2). 3. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 4. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 5. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 6. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 7. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 8. Vagrant Maid (5-2).

Thirsk
 1.30 1. Buzzard (5-2). 2. Newmarket (5-2). 3. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 4. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 5. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 6. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 7. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 8. Vagrant Maid (5-2).

Stratford-upon-Avon
 2.0 1. Buzzard (5-2). 2. Newmarket (5-2). 3. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 4. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 5. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 6. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 7. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 8. Vagrant Maid (5-2).

Perth
 2.15 1. Buzzard (5-2). 2. Newmarket (5-2). 3. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 4. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 5. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 6. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 7. Vagrant Maid (5-2). 8. Vagrant Maid (5-2).

Kewley inquiry
 Kay Kewley gained her tenth victory since turning professional in June when Pretty Picture beat Bean Boy by one and a half lengths in the Golden Grain Handicap Cup at Thirsk on Saturday. Miss Kewley will not know how her actual score, however, until a Jockey Club inquiry into the result is resolved. The controversial question of her correct riding advice. She may lose four winners because, having ridden 10 winners as an amateur, she was only entitled to claim 5lb and not 7lb.

Nottingham selections
 By Our Racing Staff
 2.30 Dancer De Corde. 3.00 Birds Of A Feather. 3.30 Orange Blossom. 4.00 Burn Up. 4.30 Beau Flis. 5.00 Blue Grass. 5.30 Norfolk. 6.00 Sharp Sea. 6.30 Kew.

Nottingham selections
 By Our Newmarket Correspondent
 2.30 Dancer De Corde. 3.00 Pledgion Green. 3.30 Casana. 4.00 Godstrath. 4.30 Saintly Way. 5.00 Sharp Sea. 5.30 Kew.

Nottingham selections
 By Our Newmarket Correspondent
 2.30 Dancer De Corde. 3.00 Pledgion Green. 3.30 Casana. 4.00 Godstrath. 4.30 Saintly Way. 5.00 Sharp Sea. 5.30 Kew.

Nottingham selections
 By Our Newmarket Correspondent
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